

Happy Holidays from all of us
here at the Bay Area Reporter!

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

Welcome to the holidays!

Welcome Home employees, from left, Bobby Pino, Jim Unroe, Michael Patrick, and Don Moretti welcome their diners to the home of their over-the-top holiday decorations. Six staffers spent hours wrapping 147 presents, stringing lights, hanging paper bells, and adding lots of glitter to their Castro Street restaurant. It has become an annual tradition.

Rick Gerhardt



Rick Gerhardt

NCLR's Kate Kendell talking about the Vermont decision on Monday with No on Knight's Mike Marshall

Same-sex 'marriage' wins in Vermont

by Katie Szymanski

In a landmark decision the gay community has been waiting for, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled Monday, December 20, that same-sex couples must be given the same benefits, protections, and responsibilities as married couples of the opposite sex.

The Vermont Supreme Court's unanimous ruling in *Baker vs. State* came on the heels of a decision earlier this month by the Hawaii Supreme Court which stated that the same-sex marriage issue was moot in that state because of a voter-approved constitutional amendment limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

"We hold that the state is constitutionally required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law," stated Chief Justice Jeffrey L. Amestoy in his 45-page opinion. All five justices agreed that same-sex couples deserve equal rights, though there was some disagreement in the justices' reasoning. In a separate opinion, Associate Justice Denise R. Johnson believed the court should have gone further by immediately allowing lesbian and gay couples access to civil marriage.

There are no further appeals in the process, according to Evan Wolfson, director of the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and it is now up to the Vermont Legislature to determine whether these benefits will be granted under the institution of marriage or through a separate system such as a domestic partner registry.

"The only legal challenges left will test if what the Legislature does is good enough to comply with the court's decision," Wolfson told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Of course, the easiest way for the Legislature to comply is to allow same-sex couples to say the two words, 'I do.'"

Other ways to comply may be to insert same-sex couples into the definition of 'spouse,' or to establish a separate but

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Marking time: 1999 in our neck of the woods

by Terry Beswick
and Katie Szymanski

Numerical milestones are just that. Like posts along a freeway that never ends, the decimally divided moments we call New Year's Eve simply separate the past from the future, this year marking a point in time which will breeze longitudinally around the globe until the whole Earth is awash in a nice, round number.

Taking note of birthdays and anniversaries are endemic in our species. We love to do it. The first in any series is a biggie, although the 10th is sort of a big deal. Passing 50 indicates some possibility of long-term survival.

The rest seem kind of redundant, at least until 100, which is almost as huge a deal as

the first.

One thousand? Okay, now we're talking something that isn't alive, unless we're talking some non-carbon based life form that you need special glasses to see.

Two thousand?

Well, on its face, it shouldn't be all that, but for a species as young as our own, it's a big chunk of time.

Maybe it's because technology today allows us to communicate so directly and so fast with so many other people. Or maybe it's because from where we stand, on the eve of the second millennium, it seems like hitting 2000 is somehow more significant than 1000 must have been.

So marking the beginning of the Judeo-Christian year 2000 or, roughly, the end of last year of the last decade of the last century of the second millennium since an influential, much-worshipped man was born in the Mid-East or thereabouts, is about checking out the past for a moment, and perhaps daring to contemplate where we might be collectively going.

You can't go backwards, you can only go gaily forward.

At this weekly newspaper, there's a year-end tradition to bite off a small, lavender chunk of all that, albeit just a chunk.

Here are a few snapshots at some of the noteworthy things that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people did in the Bay Area and around the state in the first half of 1999 – and a few things that other people did with, for, or against them.

January

Predictably enough, LGBT revelers in the Castro spilled out of the bars, off the sidewalks, and into the streets. The ostensible crossroads of our corner of America were quickly closed to traffic to protect the party boys and girls – apparently pleased about

1998 coming to a close – from vehicular accidents. Few serious incidents were reported: a burning bush, presumably a former Christmas tree, was spotted in front of Moby Dick, where it scorched a parked Mercedes; a youth was arrested for breaking bottles in front of All-American boy; and a man fired his garden hose over the fence and onto the partyers in the back patio of his neighbor, The Bar on Castro. The streets were reopened after that **first last call of the New Year**, when the bars shut down at 2 a.m., January 1, 1999.



Cynthia Laro

Governor Davis at 'Family Unity Day' event

Gay and lesbian parents and their children from two Bay Area alternative family groups joined a **Family Unity Day** celebration in Sacramento on January 3. Held on the eve of Gray Davis's January 4 inauguration as California's 37th governor and the first Democratic governor in 16 years, the kid-oriented event was joined by members of Our Family and All Our Families Coalition. Disappointed that the groups were not

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Link to Jimmy Carter's family in Oakland murder-suicide case

by Ed Walsh

The Bay Area Reporter has learned of a bizarre twist in the case of the gay couple found dead in their Oakland home over Thanksgiving weekend. Former President Jimmy Carter's nephew was found dead in the couple's front yard two years ago after he befriended Francisco Esparaza-Noyola, the man police say killed his partner before hanging himself.

An Alameda County coroner's spokesman confirmed William Carter Spann was found dead at the Richmond Boulevard home shared by Robert John Lothammer and Esparaza-Noyola. Spann's cause of death is listed as "acute ethanol poisoning," the forensic term for alcohol poisoning.

Esparaza-Noyola met Spann in San Francisco on February 2, 1997. He invited Spann home for drinks and let him take a nap on the hammock in his front yard. According to published reports, Esparaza-Noyola said he went inside to get something to eat when he heard a woman screaming from the sidewalk. She was pointing to Spann and said she thought



The front of Robert Lothammer and Francisco Esparaza-Noyola's home where Jimmy Carter's nephew was found dead in 1997.

he was dead. Esparaza-Noyola said he assumed Spann was only drunk until he grabbed his wrist and could find no pulse.

Spann, 50, had called himself the "Bad Peanut" of the Carter family and had spent his life in and out of prison. He was an alcoholic and drug addict and said he contracted AIDS by using dirty needles. Spann would often steal to support his habit. His robbery of the landmark gay bar, The Mint, is legend among its old-time customers.

"He was a good friend of mine, such a sweet guy," recalls Dennis Peron who met Spann at the medicinal marijuana club he founded. Peron believes Spann self-medicated with alcohol and other drugs to cope with his loneliness. Peron said Spann had a lot of drinking partners but none made him feel less lonely. "People would drink with him but were never with him," said Peron who recalls hugging Spann and getting the feeling Spann never wanted to let go.

Esparaza-Noyola was also a heavy drinker and lived with the dubious distinction of being Spann's final drinking partner. Although toxicology tests haven't come back yet, people close to Esparaza-Noyola, 39, and Lothammer, 62, speculate alcohol or other drugs likely precipitated their deaths.

Oakland police Sergeant Brian Medeiros said it would likely be another week or two before they know how Lothammer died and whether either man had been intoxicated. At first investigators weren't certain whether the deaths were the result of a double suicide

or murder-suicide. Now police say they believe Esparaza-Noyola killed Lothammer and then hanged himself. Lothammer was found on a couch near Esparaza-Noyola. Police say they have evidence of "trauma" injuries to his body.

Lothammer and Esparaza-Noyola's relationship was characterized by years of abuse, according to Charles Weber, a close friend of Lothammer. Weber said Lothammer often feared Esparaza-Noyola and once moved out and stayed away for several days to get away from him.

Weber said Lothammer met Esparaza-Noyola in 1992 at the Mission District gay bar, Esta Noche, and invited him home. Esparaza-Noyola, who had recently arrived from Southern California, never left Lothammer's home after that first night, according to Weber.

Weber said a pivotal moment came in the first year of the couple's relationship. Esparaza-Noyola had been acting "wildly" and police were called. When officers asked if he wanted Esparaza-Noyola removed, Lothammer said no.

Weber believes Lothammer didn't separate from Esparaza-Noyola because of his low self-esteem. "He was hopeless about finding somebody else or that things would get better," said Weber. "Robert had let things go too far for too long. He was too wanting to have somebody."

Although Lothammer's cause of death may not be known until next month, Weber, like Spann's friend Dennis Peron, believes loneliness ultimately took his friend's life. ▼

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SFFD 'Grinch' targets SOMA

by Katie Szymanski

A San Francisco Fire Department inspector entered the offices of the Bay Area Reporter on Tuesday, December 21, at 10 a.m. to do a "fire-check" on the B.A.R.'s Christmas tree. He removed a branch, took it outside, doused the branch with flames, and proclaimed it "unsafe."

The B.A.R. was ordered to take the tree down under his watchful eye.

"I hate to do this," the fire inspector said, grinning. He said he had a long list of trees at other neighborhood businesses he wanted to devour, and had to get going.

What goes around comes around, though, and when the fire inspector returned to his car, he could not get it started. After several attempts to start his vehicle, the inspector gave up. And no, he couldn't use the paper's phone. At 11:30 a.m. the fire department vehicle was towed. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lesbian Avengers to the rescue for homeless youth

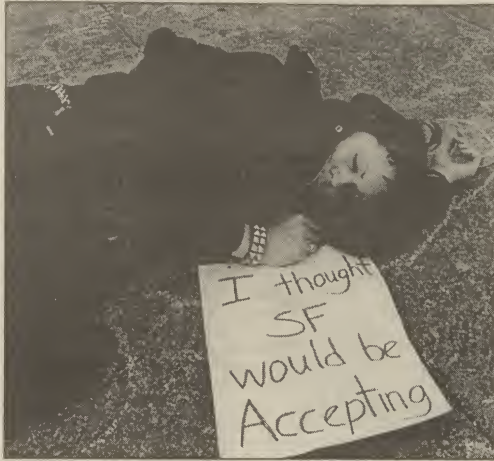
by Terry Beswick

As part of their new campaign in support of a planned emergency winter shelter in Noe Valley for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, about 30 members of the Lesbian Avengers direct action group "played dead" to dramatize the plight of the homeless last Sunday, December 19.

Over 100 neighbors of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church at 1508 Church Street – the site of the city's latest controversial shelter proposal – filed past about 30 young Avengers as they lay on the sidewalk in front of Bethany United Methodist Church, where the fourth community meeting about the LGBT youth shelter was about to begin.

The Avengers staged the protest in response to a bitter campaign from neighborhood residents opposing the temporary shelter, and spiced up their die-in message with hand-made signs bearing short, concise quips and slogans that well-captured the compelling statements they and others were to present later in the meeting.

"Kicked out. First my parents, now you," noted one. "I need a bed before I can get a job," reasoned another. "I won't hurt your neighborhood," and "Don't hate me be-



A Lesbian Avenger outside of a meeting on the Noe Valley youth shelter.

fore you know me," they pleaded.

"One guy started harassing us, yelling, 'You don't live in this neighborhood,'" Lesbian Avenger Anna Mills told the *Bay Area Reporter* after the meeting, adding that several members of her newly reformed group do in fact live in Noe Valley, where the group holds regular meetings.

"But mostly, we just had a lot of people asking questions," said Mills.

The carefully facilitated meeting was organized by Golden Gate MCC, which is collaborating with the nonprofit Ark of Refuge to start the shelter this winter with the help of \$114,774 they have requested from the city to support the project. The Ark of Refuge would utilize the bulk of the funds to provide staffing, administrative, and other support for the 10-bed shelter. MCC would provide volunteers to work with the staff and

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East Bay counties declare AIDS needle emergency

by John Iversen

Last Tuesday, December 14, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously declared a state of emergency to decriminalize needle exchange to impede the spread of HIV and hepatitis. Similar action was taken by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on the same day. Members of both boards also stated their willingness to start paying for syringes for the first time. San Francisco, Berkeley, and Los Angeles have funded syringes for a number of years.

Last week's actions in Alameda and Contra Costa counties came in response to intense lobbying by needle exchange advocates and a change in state law. On January 1, the state will free needle exchange from prosecution if a local state of emergency is declared. Local governments may also pay for syringes in the new year. Alameda County supervisors had been under constant threat of lawsuits from Sheriff Charles Plummer and District Attorney Tom Orloff if they moved to fund needle exchange.

Alameda County Health Officer Art Chen presented the board with exhaustive statistics to bolster the emergency argument. Of those testing HIV-positive at county test sites last year, 44 percent contracted the virus through injection drug use (IDU). Also 73 percent of the IDUs tested positive for hepatitis C. African Americans accounted for 75 percent of those testing HIV-positive at county sites.

Supervisors Keith Carson and Gail Steele made independent, unannounced visits to needle exchange sites. Both were shocked at

the number of visibly ill people utilizing exchanges. They lauded these people for taking steps to improve their personal health and protect their loved ones.

Carson said needle exchange makes economic as well as moral sense. "It costs \$34,000 annually to care for a person with AIDS, but only \$78 per person for using needle exchanges. This may also be the only avenue to rehabilitation for IDUs and I saw needle exchange clients wait in a separate line to get HIV tests," said Carson. All of the supervisors wanted needle exchange tied to drug treatment. "Let's put our money where our mouths are," pleaded Supervisor Mary King.

Funding decisions in January

Last year 1 million syringes were exchanged in Oakland. The county provided \$220,000 in non-syringe support funding. Comparatively San Francisco County provided \$856,000 for 2 million exchanges.

Gerald Lenoir, co-founder and board representative of the Oakland Needle Exchange, recently submitted an additional \$314,000 funding proposal to the Alameda County supervisors. The request would increase the number of exchange sites from three to five and is expected to be discussed next month. Lenoir urged concerned residents in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to "contact your supervisors and request maximum exchange funding with your tax money. It's crunch time." ▼

For more information, call the Oakland Needle Exchange/Casa Segura at (510) 437-8899.

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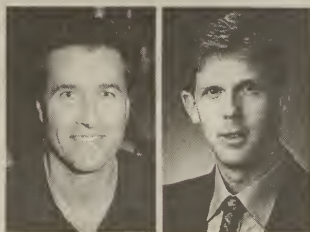


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Value of housing vouchers increased 50 percent

by Terry Beswick

With a vacancy rate of less than 1 percent, and skyrocketing rents on what few rental units become available, finally making it to the top of the years-long waiting list to secure a federally subsidized Section 8 housing voucher has been a Catch-22 for low-income San Franciscans.

But under a new federal policy announced Friday, December 10, some people who could not afford to live here, may no longer have to move.

Under pressure from AIDS activists, Mayor Willie Brown, and Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that the value of Section 8 housing vouchers will now be increased by 50 percent. This means that, for example, a voucher for a one-bedroom apartment that used to be worth \$1,077 per month, will now be worth \$1,616.

Furthermore, the time permitted for Section 8 recipients to use the vouchers to find a home has been doubled, from three months to six months.

"San Francisco tenants seeking Section 8 housing will find an immediate increase in the number of apartments available to them," Brown said during Friday's press conference at the Hamilton Family Center, a new housing complex for previously homeless families that opens next month.

There are currently 4,400 housing units in San Francisco's Section 8 program, which allows tenants to pay 30 percent of their income toward rent, with HUD providing the balance. All the units are in privately owned housing.

Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, who made the announcement on behalf of HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo, noted that: "A quick glance at today's classified ads for housing made the point that under the old Section 8 levels, 10 one-bedroom apartments were available in San Francisco. Under the new rent levels, 137 apartments are listed with the permitted rent level."

Many people who get Section 8 vouchers are disabled, and qualify under the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program. And for those lucky enough to get a voucher, finding an apartment that it will pay for, and a landlord

that will accept it has been nearly impossible.

"It was really the HOPWA constituency that was responsible for this," noted Randy Shaw, director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, adding that the changes are going to make a "huge difference."

Pelosi, who with Brown had lobbied HUD for the increase, said, "This is another example where Mayor Brown has fought successfully to improve access to affordable housing for more San Franciscans."

Ernest Hopkins, director of federal affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, also credited the mayor's office for the change in policy. "The mayor has been incredibly helpful," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The city lobbyist has been just pounding on Congress and HUD to get this done."

Still, Shaw cautions that the voucher increases are not going to solve the housing crisis in San Francisco for poor, disabled people, much less anyone else. "It doesn't mean that for every apartment, there aren't five applicants. You're still going to be competing with all these other people," he said. ▼

ACRC recovers finances; revises objectives

by Marv. Shaw

Emerging from a damaging period when financial resources were perilously low, ACRC (AIDS Community Research Consortium) in Redwood City has recovered and in the process has changed its objectives while retaining its initial identity of being an AIDS treatment facility and clinical trials agency. Executive Director Michael Edell recently announced.

Edell explained there were several factors relating to the agency's financial difficulties. For one, the public's increasing complacency with AIDS resulted in reduced donations, something many other

AIDS organizations across the country have experienced.

Over a 10-year period, the Redwood City facility has conducted 150 clinical trials and treated nearly 2,000 patients for studies, Edell said. When the possibility of ACRC's closure loomed earlier this year, however, it became obvious that a plan had to be worked out. People living with HIV/AIDS still needed to be treated, and the medications dispensed by ACRC needed to be administered.

First, a September retreat by ACRC's board of directors was held to rescue the agency's identity and begin a plan to continue operating that ultimately strengthened ACRC's value to the

community while maintaining its identity. Agencies and individuals Edell characterized as "angels" began fundraising to guarantee ACRC's fiscal health into 2000. Since mid-September, ACRC has raised \$174,000. One important individual responsible was Rose Jacobs Gibson, a San Mateo County supervisor.

An October meeting determined some other important differences in the nature and operation of the agency. It was recognized that while the original goal of conducting clinical trials of proposed new medications was important for a number of pharmaceutical companies proposing them as promising new drugs, patient service was a more critical need.

It was also very important, Edell pointed out, to continue programs such as the ACRC-originated "Living Now," which assists patients in maintaining their lives while they are getting medications combating HIV.

ACRC also cut some staff positions, Edell said.

The agency continues to include medications that offer novel yet promising treatment. One of those is the elimination of HIV through the bolstering of the patient's immune system by genetic means. Another program is co-infection treatment, which is necessary in many cases, such as treating people living with HIV and hepatitis C.

Edell is convinced that as long as ACRC continues to demonstrate success in such ways, it will draw public support. ▼

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Vallejo's first openly gay councilman sworn in

by Cynthia Laird

Lost in the national excitement generated by San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's successful write-in effort for mayor, and the ensuing runoff campaign that culminated last week with the re-election of Mayor Willie Brown, was the news that in the Solano County community of Vallejo, openly gay resident and San Francisco attorney Gary Cloutier won his race for a seat on the City Council.

Cloutier, 37, was sworn in December 7 and has attended a couple of council meetings since then. In last month's election, 12 candidates – including two incumbents – ran for three council

seats. Cloutier finished in the top three, edging out one of the incumbents.

"It was great, a real slice of America," Cloutier told the *Bay Area Reporter* of the recent swearing-in ceremony.

Cloutier said he moved from the city to Vallejo about two and a half years ago. It didn't take him long to decide to run for public office. "I think the town was really looking for a new face," he said. He added that his background as a lawyer helped. "My being gay didn't even come up as an issue."

The last time he ran for office was many years ago when he was a candidate for the Rhode Island state Senate while in law school.

During the campaign, Cloutier "went to every dinner I could"



Vallejo councilman Gary Cloutier

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LGADDA's Kwanzaa event Dec. 30

by Katie Szymanski

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action invite African American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and other interested residents to the eighth annual "LGADDA Kwanzaa," on Thursday, December 30 in the Koret Auditorium of the San Francisco Main Library. This year's event is hosted by LGADDA and, for the first time, the Stop AIDS Project. It is presented in association with the library's African American and James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian centers.

LGADDA Kwanzaa is a free community event celebrating the principle of Nia (purpose) through performance, song, spoken word, visual arts, and theater.

Organizers seek to celebrate the creation and the survival of African and African American art and culture; art and culture that has not only survived middle passages, slavery, bigotry, homophobia and AIDS, but has thrived in the face of these adversities.

"The celebration looks back and honors all the voices that still resonate when we poet, sing, and dance and at the same time looks for both guidance and a renewed sense of purpose to give us continued strength to tell our stories into the new millennium," said organizer Marvin White, who'll be reading his poetry.

Other performers will include playwright Brian Freeman, actress Carolyn King, singers Cedric Brown and Blackberri, and many others.

The Kwanzaa event takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Prior to that, the

Stop AIDS Project will host a reception for its "One Love" media campaign from 5 to 6 p.m. That event is also free. ▼

The Main Library is located at 100 Larkin Street, at Grove, near the Civic Center BART and Muni station. For more information, call (415) 749-1202.

Grrreat program for grrrlz

by Katie Szymanski

Girlz Alliance, a division of Girls, Incorporated of Alameda County, invites lesbian, bisexual, and transgender young women to check out why its program is different from others that focus on queer youth.

With a weekly meeting every Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in San Leandro, Girlz Alliance offers a safe and culturally sensitive space to talk, come out, get referrals, and meet new people. Activities include workshops, trainings, speakers, field trips, rap sessions, and social/movie nights. The program is offered in English and Spanish, and due to the diverse nature of the site, offers more confidentiality and resources than other queer youth groups.

"Girls, Incorporated offers several programs on site, which means in terms of coming in, nobody has to know where you're going," said Marta Reynoso, program coordinator. "Also, as a Girlz Alliance participant, you can access any of Girls, Incorporated programs, such as the health center and various workshops."

Girlz Alliance was formed in 1997 and is still going strong.

"The girls know," said Reynoso, "that this is a safe, sup-



Marta Reynoso

portive, fun environment for them."

Although located in San Leandro, Girlz Alliance attracts participants from as far as Union City, and includes girls from Oakland and other parts of the Bay Area.

The program is free of charge, made possible by a grant from the Gateway Initiative, a partnership of San Francisco Foundation and Horizons Foundation. Meetings are held at 2251 Bancroft Avenue, across from San Leandro High School. For more information, call (510) 357-5515. ▼



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OPEN FORUM

A holiday gift from Vermont

It took a tiny state in New England – Vermont – to make a gigantic impact on equal rights; and Monday's ruling by the Vermont Supreme Court that same-sex couples must be granted the same benefits and protections as people in heterosexual marriages speaks volumes about how far the gay rights movement has come in just the last 10 years, never mind the last century. The Vermont court's surprise decision comes as a welcome holiday present for the lesbian and gay community.

While the court's ruling doesn't mean same-sex couples can hop on an airplane and go to Vermont to get married, Chief Justice Jeffrey L. Amestoy, in his opinion, wrote, "We hold that the state is constitutionally required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law. The extension of the Common Benefits Clause to acknowledge plaintiffs as Vermonters who seek nothing more, nor less, than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and lasting human relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity."

The court left it up to the Vermont Legislature to determine whether such benefits should come through formal marriage or a system of domestic partnerships. The Legislature convenes again next month for its 2000 session and is expected to take up the matter.

The ruling cannot be appealed, because it is based on the Vermont Constitution's Common Benefits Clause and not the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The decision also makes it more important than ever for Californians to defeat the anti-gay Knight initiative on the March 7, 2000 primary ballot.

Monday's decision in Vermont naturally sent gay rights advocates into elation. Never before has a legal body at the Supreme Court level ruled that gays and lesbians and their families are discriminated against, said Mike Marshall, who's manager for the No on Knight campaign in California. Kate Kendall, executive director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who is in a committed relationship and has two children, also hailed the decision. She said the ruling

makes it clear that singling out gay and lesbian couples and denying them benefits that every other legally married couple in the country enjoys is "simply wrong."

The fight for rights by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community has always been about equal rights: We just want what everyone else has. It's true with domestic partner benefits, such as San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance, and it's true regarding same-sex marriage. We might not all want to get married, but that's not the issue. The issue is that same-sex couples should have the same benefits that opposite-sex couples enjoy.

The Vermont Supreme Court agreed. Kay Ostberg, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, which is working hard to defeat the Knight initiative, also praised the Vermont decision, but emphasized that here in California, we have a battle to fight. "It is an unprecedented acknowledgment of gay and lesbian families who deserve the same basic family rights as other Americans. As we celebrate victory in Vermont, here in California, we

are confronted by a measure that would deny our families the same legal protections that the Vermont court recognized. Hopefully, California will join Vermont's historic action and reject the Knight initiative."

Coming just 11 days after the Hawaii Supreme Court closed the door on gay marriage, Monday's decision in Vermont "restored our faith that equal justice truly applies to everyone, not just the majority," said CAPE's board co-chair Esther Lee.

This holiday season, as we stand on the edge of a new century, we hope the Vermont decision soon becomes the norm rather than the exception. Recognizing that same-sex couples are legally entitled to benefits is a progression of equal rights that must not end. As LGBT people continue to come out to friends, families, co-workers, and the community at large by taking stands on issues such as same-sex marriage, we can only hope that as we enter the 21st century, the old stereotypes will continue to fall by the wayside as courts, legislatures, and businesses work to provide equal rights for all.

Happy holidays, everyone. ▼



Editorial

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, THE ONLY STATEMENT I AM PREPARED TO MAKE AT THIS TIME REGARDING RUMORS OF ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FATHER TIME AND MYSELF IS THAT WE ARE JUST GOOD FRIENDS, NOTHING MORE, AND I FOR ONE RESENT THIS PRYING INTO MY PERSONAL LIFE!



YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLOSET.

Sunny sanity for families

by Cheryl Deaner

It surprised many of us this week when the Vermont Supreme Court, in *Baker vs. State*, ruled that denying same-sex couples access to the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual married couples was discriminatory, perhaps it shouldn't have. Vermont has simply shown its deep commitment to a value stated in the Common Benefits Clause of the Vermont Constitution, which predates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and consistently has demanded that "statutory exclusions from publicly-conferred benefits and protections must be premised on an appropriate and overriding public interest."

Put more simply, Vermont's court has recognized what many of us have been trying to say all along – that states have an obligation to protect all the couples and families of their state, not just the heterosexual ones. The Vermont opinion is based on the constitutional responsibility under which such exclusions are made, not on the issue of "religious, moral, or political beliefs."

California could learn much from Vermont, most immediately in today's fight to organize and to defeat the Knight initiative (Proposition 22) on the March 7, 2000 ballot.

But perhaps I am more impatient than most. I am sick and tired that my son, Jesse, must grow up in a family that, according to California's laws, does not exist. How does one teach a child to care about a country that does not honor his family in the most basic way?

Last week Jesse's fifth grade homework

assignment included making a sentence using the word "patriotic." "What's patriotic?" he asked. I must admit for a moment I felt guilty that we, his moms, had somehow not inculcated him with the concept. Growing up in a small, mid-western town, I thought I knew all about patriotism by the second grade. But the definition of patriotism I grew up with – the love of God and country – just doesn't work for Jesse, or the 100,000 other children growing up outside the legal system in California simply because their parents are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

So I told my son, "It means voting in elections. Like if you care about the country you live in, you try to make it a better place." So Jesse wrote: "Patriotism is voting." I guess that was as good a definition to start with as any.

Vermont's decision totally messes with the religious and political far right's current ability to scapegoat our families. It is based "on the statutory and constitutional basis for exclusion of same-sex couples from the secular benefits and protections offered married couples." The Vermont court has acknowledged the obvious – that good families can and do exist outside the box of traditional, heterosexual marriage – and therefore it is the state's duty to protect all of its families.

For those of us who want to have the right – if we choose it – to form a legal family, the Vermont decision comes as a sunbeam of sanity in a country that, until now, has failed to recognize this most basic of human rights. We all deserve the chance to protect those we love. The isolation of our

community on the basis of our love for one another is a cruel, hateful, and effective way of keeping our community from believing in itself. It is the taproot of all homophobia.

And homophobia against our families especially hurts the young in our community. Queer youth and the children of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents do not have enough life experience to always understand that the discrimination and hatred directed at them, and their families, is what is wrong – not them.

California has far to go if we want to ever consider ourselves to be civil rights leaders in our country again. The California court system, except at its most basic, pragmatic level, has done painfully little not to support the backwards viewpoint that our most intimate relationships are inferior and morally wrong, and do not deserve the protections of our state.

However, we can all vote. We can say "No" to Proposition 22 (the Knight anti-gay family initiative) on the March 7, 2000 ballot in California. We can let all the people who maybe don't know us as well as they should know us just how important voting against this hateful, divisive, and intrusive initiative will be in this upcoming election. We can and will send a strong, clear message to the extreme religious and political forces in California: Open hunting season on our families is over. ▼

Cheryl Deaner is the executive director of All Our Families Coalition.

LETTERS

Bradley's a leader on gays in military

Suddenly, "gays in the military" has become an important issue for the 2000 elections. First, Bill Bradley criticized "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) and pledged to allow gays to serve openly in the military, if elected. Now, both Hillary Clinton and Al Gore have followed suit. Even President Clinton has admitted that the policy he conceived is "out of whack" and should be reviewed.

When Bill Clinton and Al Gore flip-flop on such a major issue, you can bet the polls have changed on that issue as well. Indeed, the most recent numbers from National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute indicate that 70 percent of Americans now support the right of gays and lesbians to serve in the military.

The unquestionable leader in this debate has been presidential candidate Bill Bradley. Before the polls changed, before the current outcry over the bludgeoning death of Private First Class Barry Winchell, and before the discharge recommendation of Arizona Representative Steve May, Bradley acted on his principles and convictions to condemn DADT. Earlier this year on national television, Bradley questioned, "Why can a gay American serve openly in the U.S. Department of Treasury, in the U.S. State Department, in the office of the attorney general, in the White House, in Congress, and in the federal courts and not serve in the military? It's just common sense that if gay Americans can be policemen, nuclear scientists, bricklayers, football players, doctors, and lawyers, then they can also be sergeants and generals." Bradley argued on many national TV news shows that DADT was wrong, and he did not back down or equivocate when challenged by questioners.

What Bradley did is an example of leadership and how a leader leads. What Gore, Hillary Clinton, and President Clinton did was react to polls and events. They are followers, not leaders.

Don George
Atlanta, GA

Library hours approved

The San Francisco Public Library Commission voted at its December 6 meeting to maintain the current level of service hours in the library system, rather than approving a proposed reduction of two hours ["Library Commission disguises its cuts," December 2]. However, to clarify a couple of points, no reduction in hours was ever proposed for the Mission branch. In fact, the approved new hours include an additional three hours for the children's rooms at four branches, including the Mission branch. The biggest change will be that some branches, including Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk, will now be open from 1-6 p.m. on Saturdays, rather than noon-6 p.m.

Information about proposed changes in hours was well publicized with news releases to the local media, a posting on the library's website on the Internet, and at branch libraries. A citywide telephone survey and clipboard survey at each branch library, conducted by David Binder, indicated that the public is pleased with the present number of open hours.

While it is clear from the article that Mr. Chaffee is a longtime critic of the Library Commission, it is not as apparent that he is an even bigger critic of the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library. This organization of generous donors raised over \$30 million to furnish and equip the Main Library, including the James Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center.

Marcia Schneider, Public Affairs Director
San Francisco Public Library

[Editor's note: We ran a correction about the Mission branch hours in the December 9 edition. Our apologies for any confusion.]

Circumcision, tobacco, infant formula connection

What do cigarettes, infant formula and circumcision have in common? Their advocates have all relied on faulty medical evidence to promote their use in the world's biggest consumer market, the United States.

Medical "evidence" claimed tobacco would relieve stress and prevent weight gain. Infant formula was scientifically "proven" to be superior to breast milk. And now, Daniel Halperin and others claim that men can reduce their AIDS risk by cutting off part of their genitals.

In all of these cases, the American public has awakened to the truth, which is why these damaging products and practices have waned in popularity here. Advocates, however, continue to search for more gullible "consumers" in unsuspecting developing nations of Africa.

Shame on America and those in its medical community who place profit ahead of ethics.

Bernhard Vey
San Francisco

NOHARM's view on circumcision flap

Circumcision advocacy is often based on flawed science or covert emotional bias among its promoters. From my telephone conversation earlier this year with Daniel Halperin, I know his advocacy of genital cutting stems from both.

The HIV studies upon which he bases his conclusion (that the foreskin is an "Achilles' heel") are all seriously flawed. They disregard numerous confounding social, religious, or sexual factors. According to our African colleagues opposing the spread of female genital cutting, the female labia's "vulnerability" to HIV is also cited by biased doctors there to justify the custom of female "circumcision."

Halperin also believes no systematic evidence documents that circumcision desensitizes the penis. He must have been asleep for the past four years. Taylor's research (*British Journal of Urology*, 1996) revealed specialized sensory bands on the inner foreskin lining, making the foreskin "an important component of the overall sensory mechanism of the human penis." It noted that circumcision ablates about "51 percent of the length of the penile shaft" skin, or approximately 15 square inches of the most densely nerve-laden tissue of the adult penis.

Fifteen years ago, many doctors believed babies didn't feel the pain of unanesthetized circumcision because "science" had not yet proven what was even then obvious from the infants' unceasing screams: babies do feel pain. Although the January 1999 *British Journal of Urology* reported findings from our survey of 500 respondents documenting the physical, sexual, and psychological damage of childhood circumcision, Halperin repeats this medical mistake by holding out for "science" to prove the obvious: excising the most innervated and erogenous half of the penile skin reduces receptivity to the finer sensual pleasures of sex.

The danger in Halperin's position, which I already conveyed to him, is that promoting "voluntary" circumcision among African men will result in them eventually subjecting their sons to "involuntary" circumcision. Without proper legal safeguards to protect the health and rights of children, genital cutting becomes an accepted social custom, as it has in the U.S., for which parents offer every imaginable excuse.

Motivations for this abuse of science are found in Stein's survey of physician attitudes about circumcision (*Journal of Family Practice*, 1982). Genital cutting was favored by "older, male, and circumcised physicians" and "cultural, social, and historical imperatives seem to be in control for physicians. Halperin and most circumcision advocates are themselves circumcised or come from circumcising cultures.

In "Circumcision: The Boundary of Ritual and Science" (*American Family Physician*, 1990), Robert Dozor, M.D., warned, "Circumcision should not be routinely prescribed on the basis of beliefs disguised as science." The belief that circumcision reduces AIDS risk has not been scientifically proven. Once again, however, AIDS gives new life to bad ideas.

Visit NOHARM's featured article on circumcision and AIDS at www.noharm.org.

Tim Hammond, Executive Director
National Organization to Halt the Abuse &
Routine Mutilation of Males
San Francisco

Comin' to the front of the bus

For the past nine weeks there has been a new revolution being born in San Francisco. It is a revolution that has frightened the political establishment so much that Republicans endorsed Democrats and the entire national Democratic machine came to support one Democrat against another. The incumbent Willie Brown outspent his challenger 10 to 1 and still the openly gay candidate Tom Ammiano got 40 percent of the vote. What I would like to focus on is what this runoff election has meant to many gay men and lesbians in San Francisco.

Willie Brown got many votes west of Twin Peaks in the more conservative section of the city. The full page homophobic ad in the *Independent* newspaper played on the fears of conservative Catholic voters. This tactic was allowed by the Democratic Party and by some of the gay political elite who have future political aspirations. It was financed with soft money. What they have underestimated is the passion and the intelligence of the Ammiano supporters in the lesbian/gay community. We are no longer willing to be the "obedient blacks" who sit at the back of the bus. It is time for us to address the real issues of homophobia. Prejudice and hatred are not acceptable because those who espouse it hide behind clerical robes and religious convictions. It is time we address the issue of homophobia and hate crimes against homosexuals from a realistic point of view. The reason it continues unabated in the U.S. is because it is institutionalized in the highest levels of culture and government. A close look at the results of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the military gives an accurate picture of institution-

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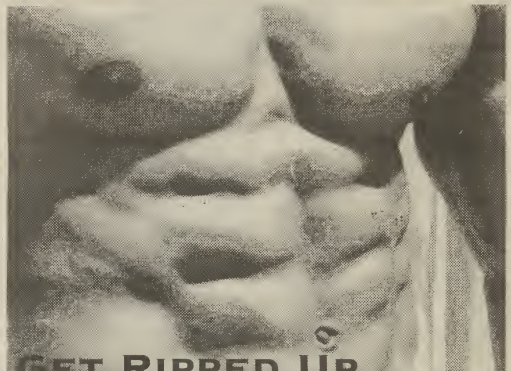
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alized homophobia in America. The Pentagon's pathetic response to the murder of a soldier perceived to be gay sends a message that is loud and clear. "What's one gay man's life worth? Nothing!" There are many more faggots who can be thrown on the fire to avoid taking responsibility for the complicity of hatred at the top levels of government. Their position is that gays in the military disrupt the military. The fact is, anti-gay prejudice and religious sponsored bigotry disrupt the military just as racism and anti-semitism do.

So what is it that this new gay and lesbian movement wants? We want real equality and a little respect and we want it yesterday. We want to talk about the religious war on homosexuals in a culture that prides itself on separation of church and state. We want to talk about government-sponsored inequality in sanctioning relationships. We want protections for gay and lesbian youth and an end to the religious sponsored censorship in public schools. We want the American culture to stop hiding behind the guise of protecting children and begin giving gay and lesbian children the same value as other children. We want to take our rightful place at the table so we can see the end to yet another embarrassing chapter in American history. Most of all we are no longer willing to wait around until our masters decide it is time to set us free. We are coming to the front of the bus, ready or not!

Robert Starkey, aka "The Truth Fairy"
San Francisco

Willieville, CA?

I work on Pier 39 and I am very disgusted with the people in this city. Last Tuesday, I literally walked into 20 stores on the pier and not one of the people I talked to has voted, or wants to vote for either mayoral candidate.

I am astounded at how many people actually think that their vote doesn't count. Well, I really can't blame them for that opinion, when we just got our votes from November overturned in a courtroom.

We, in the past, have voted to legalize marijuana (overturned in a courtroom), domestic partner benefits (overturned in a courtroom - denying our basic civil rights), what next?

What is the point of voting for any initiatives or reforms when a judge (one person), can overrule public opinion and public outcry?

We are supposed to be the most out and liberal city in the nation, yet we constantly get our votes overturned. Why? This is sending a message that our votes do not count.

Willie Brown is sure to raise taxes and kiss more corporate ass, instead of thinking about what is important to the people who put him in office. Willie also can't seem to get Muni fixed, like he has been promising. Hey Willie, why don't you try using Muni on a daily basis. Maybe then you can see exactly how sucky the situation is underground.

Tom Ammann wants to make it easier for people who call San Francisco home to live indoors. He also wants to make it more competitive for businesses to get city contracts for construction. Tom rides Muni on a daily basis and will get it fixed, because he knows exactly how sucky the situation is underground. Tom wants to help the people and not kiss corporate ass. People are threatened by the fact that Tom won't give contracts without competitive bidding. Tom will look out for the little guy. We need a hero in this city and it isn't Willie Brown.

Willie will look out for Willie, just like always. I call San Francisco home and have for four years. It is starting to be less like my home and more like Willieville, CA.

Brian M. Feydo
San Francisco

Appreciates Bodfish coverage

Great investigation by Ed Walsh, on the complex end of Margaret/Emmon Bodfish, elucidating Bodfish's world; few people, even who knew "Ems", could report it as well.

Two readers insist Walsh is "wrong" to use feminine pronouns for Bodfish, but didn't know "Ems". While I did, and Ems told me which set to use, even so, either set is arguably right/arguably wrong.

Much as Ems firmly told me she was a woman, other friends were told the opposite. After Ems's murder, when we met each other, we all learned many people close to Ems had been told the opposite of whatever the rest had. (Only a few of us use "Ems" - her girlhood nickname.)

Ems grew up in the 1940s enjoying the outdoors - but it was proscribed by her mom, who, one summer, wanted even worse to keep Ems out of "teen trouble", so hired her out to a friend. Thus did Ems find work she loved - plumbing - which gave her mom no end of chagrin; it was "dirty", "not nice", and often, outdoors. Her mom hated Ems's (well-paid) "embarrassing" career. But Ems capitalized on others' distastes, and always crashed conventional taboos.

Her male guise began by chance, she said, when a [male] store clerk mistook her for a man, in the early 1970s - hardly difficult, with Ems, then one of just two women plumbers in the U.S., sporting hair "as long as many male construction workers", and wearing shapeless coveralls and a tool belt. But only one thing shocked her about being called "Sir", she said: how respectfully she suddenly was treated - better than ever, at work. And, she knew she'd be safe, in a "male" look, in tough neighborhoods where work took her.

When Pat Califia wrote the B.A.R. about using feminine pronouns, Walsh's only sources about Bodfish did likewise. Califia's letter, and - God help us - the Human Rights Commission's, annoy me greatly, for presumptuously "correcting" Walsh when Bodfish either wouldn't, or would uphold his choice. Regardless, she'd not call it the worst treatment.

Some proximity to "Transgenderia" - even friendship with Holly Woodlawn - taught me not to guess what anyone prefers to be called, or why. Bodfish used both genders, and varying preference. No one need be scolded for using either. If Walsh feels "right" now, using masculine pronouns for Bodfish, please, no angry torch-bearers for that.

Bodfish's idea of which best labeled "Emself" (may I coin pronouns?) varied in time, too. Anyone might rightly say the (chosen) male identity's predominant, since the other's a default (from birth). But without "reassignment" surgery, and, despite thoroughness in paperwork, never having applying for "naturalized" male "status", despite a legal change to a man's name - as Walsh reports, Ems was born and "died a woman."

Ems's two-fold, genuine annihilation, which Califia and the Human Rights Commission should abhor, included hysterectomy at age 30 - after a doctor said, as the American Medical Association still holds, that a womb won't turn cancerous if removed. The logic's hermetic, but a biopsy showed the surgery pathologically frivolous.

As do hysterectomy survivors, Ems "went from age 30 to twice that", in days. The ill-health she was battling also grew worse, and she learned her then-boyfriend saw her convalescence as "a drag," although he'd argued for surgery. He left her, a young mother, ill, suddenly and entirely without income, alone, with 6-year-old Max (then named John).

Murdering Ems - certainly not comparable to pronouns use or misuse - probably wasn't spurred by anti-TG sentiment. The murderer could be assumed antithetical to lots of rights and views; Ems's short list includes: wealth, capitalism, animal rights, Paganism, anti-gun control, pro-hunting, pro-petroleum-burning vehicles, ardent and radical feminism, anti-hysterectomy, pro-choice - and just to complicate the mix, she was on both sides of a variety of grudges; and, yes, TG.

The murderer probably didn't care a whit for or against the Ems we so loved; he (forgive my pronoun, if wrong) probably just wanted money.

Ems and I agreed: private parts are private. Using them to address is UNdress. To whom does it matter what our gender is? Only for a short interval, for fun and/or important activities, does anyone have a right or need to know another's genitalia; if we never used titles or pronouns which suggest we know others' pelvic pertuberances, the world would go on - perhaps better - even if not for sad souls who want whatever privilege accrues from a few inches of or indentations in crotchey flesh. They may refer to their own gender as sanctimoniously as they wish. Bodfish would agree.

Megan C. Timberlake
Richmond, CA

Wants tolerant space in Castro for Y2K

"Mum-cee" (Merchants of Upper Market and Castro) did a fine job of managing the closure of Castro Street on Halloween, providing a safe yet tolerant environment, which discouraged violence yet allowed nudity.

Alas, they won't do so on New Year's Eve. I wish some other group would.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Clichés avoided in film, not in review

Gary Morris wrote about Ana Kokkinos's interesting film, *Head On*, [November 11] that Ari's "taste in men will send some viewers screaming for the exit," because he has sex with a "behemoth" and with a "troll." When I saw the film no one actually ran out of the theater because a beautiful young man had sex with men who are considered less beautiful - by some. Ari lacks certainty and power in his life, so he has sex with men who look powerful or certain about what they want. The behemoth was not fat, but big and strong. The troll must have been all of 50. I'm glad Kokkinos avoided Hollywood clichés, even though the B.A.R. critic can't get past them.

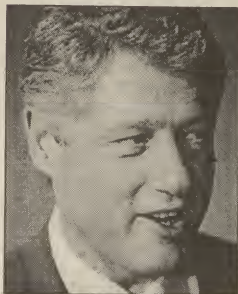
Robert Glüick
San Francisco

POLITICS

Clinton should end DADT

by Wayne Friday

Needless to say I've never been to a \$10,000-per-plate political meal so I have no idea what anyone is expected to bring away from one, but I would think that those wealthy gays and lesbians, some 50 or more I'm told, who shelled out \$10,000 each to have lunch with President **Bill Clinton** last week (raising



President Bill Clinton

more than half a million dollars for the Democratic Party) would have expected more than to simply hear Clinton finally admit that his "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy he implemented in 1993 regarding gays in the military was a complete flop and that the only way the country could be expected to change the failed policy was for homosexuals to work harder to help Democrats regain control of Congress next year. How about an executive order lifting the ban on all gays in uniform, Mr. President?

I agree that we will never get anything from a Republican-controlled Congress, but Clinton could leave a real legacy on gay rights by signing an executive order putting a complete stop once and for all to anti-gay harassment in the military.

Politics and people

Now that the runoff election is over and Mayor **Willie Brown** got re-elected by a landslide, some of those close to Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** are reportedly telling whoever will listen that "Tom is going to run a candidate in the districts next year against every supervisor who supported the mayor," take control of the board, and get himself re-elected as its president. I wouldn't be surprised if that were to happen, but I wouldn't want to be the candidate who had to take on the likes of **Mark Leno**, **Leslie Katz**, **Gavin Newsom**, **Mabel Teng**, or a couple of others who have made their mark with the electorate.

Meanwhile, I'm told there are some pretty well-known names tossing their political hats into the supervisor contests next year — **Tom Hsieh Jr.**, **Juanita Owens**, **Dennis Herrera**, **Frank Jordan Jr.**, and **Arlo Smith** to name just a few.

Mayor Brown's impressive win last week makes him the first mayor since **Dianne Feinstein** to win more than one term. Since Brown by law cannot run for mayor again, the guessing game as to who succeeds him has already started. Among those thought to be possible in the next mayoral election are Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** (what a mayor she would make), **Tom Ammiano**, **Angela Alioto**, **Gavin Newsom**, and a host of others and, oh yes, of course, **Cesar Ascarrunz**.

As for Brown, who will be 69 when his second term ends,

Sacramento Bee columnist **Dan Walters**, one of the best in the state, was reporting that "political insiders are already talking about Senate President Pro Tem **John Burton** running for mayor in 2003 and Brown taking Burton's seat in the state Senate, getting himself elected as president pro tem — the Legislature's most powerful position — and dominating Capitol politics for another eight years." Hmmm.

Overheard at City Hall: "**Terence (Hallinan)** isn't only the most incompetent district attorney in the state, he's also the luckiest." I can't disagree with that; we've got Tom Ammiano and his last-minute write-in campaign to thank for another four years of the embarrassing Hallinan DA's office. Four years ago, Hallinan rode in on the back of the Willie Brown landslide and last week he sneaked back into office with a razor-thin win on the coattails of Ammiano's heavy Castro area vote.

While all the votes haven't yet been tabulated, Hallinan's lead is growing as more ballots are counted. Hallinan's apparent win brought relief to some of his fans, however. A week before the election, one of the city's best-known dope dealers fretted on Castro Street that "If **(Bill) Fazio** wins I might go to jail." A real testament to Hallinan's office, I must say.

As for that door hanger put out by the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club claiming that "Terence Hallinan has been a champion of our rights for more than 30 years" — **Harvey Milk** must be spinning in his grave over that one.

Just when state Republicans were sure they had a candidate in Representative **Tom Campbell** that could take out Senator **Dianne Feinstein** next year, the respected Field Poll came out last week with numbers showing the popular Feinstein whipping the sometimes moderate Campbell by a 51 percent to 16 percent margin, with the other possible GOP candidates faring in the single-digit area.

Remember several years ago when the late rocker **Frank Zappa** called **Tipper Gore** and her allies "cultural terrorists" for demanding lyric warning labels on record jackets? Well, the late Zappa's wife is now one of Vice President **Al Gore**'s biggest backers, having donated some \$80,000 to his campaign and the Democratic Party.

Some national Republicans are saying that the Cheshire smile that **George W. Bush** flashes when he gets caught with a question he doesn't want to answer is really more of a "I don't have to answer you" smirk than a smile. More and more Republicans of national stature are said to be thinking that Bush has a bit of an attitude problem, suggesting that his clipped answers and quirky smirk really suggest that his "kiss-my-ass-I've-got-this-thing-wrapped-up" attitude is going to his wealthy, spoiled head. Bush's innate smarts and his charming "how-ya-doing-fella" greeting is wearing a bit thin with voters, even those who are Republicans.

Meanwhile, Arizona Senator **John McCain** keeps steadily climbing in the polls.

Paging Governor **Gray Davis**

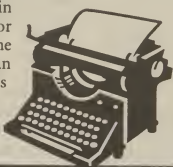
— Democrats **Dianne Feinstein**, **Barbara Boxer**, and both Demo presidential hopefuls **Al Gore** and **Bill Bradley** have announced their opposition to Proposition 22, the ballot initiative that would forbid legal recognition of same-sex marriages that appears on the March 2000 ballot. Why the silence from the governor on this hot-button issue?

The holiday season is now here and I would like to take this opportunity to wish a particularly happy holidays and an even healthier New Year to some of the many people I know and appreciate; some make it into this column

during the year and some don't, but the very best of the season and a great 2000 to:

Willie Brown; **Carole Migden** and **Cris Arguedas**; **Mick Riddolfi**; **Harry Britt**; **Bryan James**; **Frank & Wendy Jordan**; **Mark Leno**; **Dennis**

rera; **Jack Davis**; **Donald Canady**; **Dennis Collins**; **Jim Rivaldo**; **Sharon McNight**; **Robert Barnes & Carlos**; **Fred Lau**; **Margaret Poscher**; **Ron Ross**; **Lillian Sing**; **Tom Ammiano**; **Mike Hennessey**; **Jeff Brown**; **Mabel Teng**; **John Burton**; **Dianne Feinstein** & **Dick Blum**; **Robert Oakes**; **Leslie Katz**; **Robert Golovich**; **Katherine Feinstein** & **Rick Mariano**; **Ken Cady** & **David Tan**; **V. Roy Lefcourt** & **Ellen Chaitin**; **Dan & Donna Addario**; **Gavin Newsom**; **Julie Tang**; **Sue Bierman**; **Joe Bannon**; **Steve Cox**; **Juanita Owens**; **Bill Fazio**; the gang at **Marlena's**; **Warren Hinkle**; **Peter Nardoza**; **Ted Fang**; **Randy Alfred**; **Scott Shafer**; **Paul & Kevin Wadsworth Johnson**; **Michael O'Malley**; **Morgan Gorrone**; **Mark Campanella**; **Jim Dewey**; **Marc Gofstein**; **Jeff Getty**; **Ted Hirshfield**; everyone at **The Bar on Castro**; **Gardner Pond**; **Ed Emond**; **Richard Hongisto**; **Bevan Duffy**; **Jeff Sheehy**; **David Binder**; **Ron Albers**; **Ken Stern**, and the crowd at **The Giraffe**; **Andy Clark**; **Leland Yee**; **Kevin Shelley**; **Jackie Speier**; **Anthony Garrett** & **Carol Klinger**; **Chuck Hemphling**; the gang at **Polk Street's Club Rendez-Vous**; **Allen White**; **Cecil Williams** & **Jan Mirikitani**; **Amos Brown**; **Doris Ward**; **Susan Leal**; **Caroleene Marks**; **Danny Nicoletta**; **Dick Pabich**; **Rebecca Prozan**; **Tom Nolan**; **Carol Stuart**; **Pam David**; **Dan Rogers** & the **Ginger's crew**; **Dave Tussey**; **Michael Colbruno**; **Angela Alioto**; **Tom Horn**; **Jack McGowan**; **Hank Plante**; **Rink**; **Margo St. James**; **Marcus Conant**; **Phil Matier**; **Andy Ross**; **Richard Kutner**; **Mike Nevin**; **Mike Housh** & **Rick Procurer**; **Larry Bush**; **Art & Sherry Agnos**; **Larry Kramer**; **Kevin McCarthy**; **Ken Irvine**; **Mark Luko**; **Stanley Boyd**; **Steve Rascher**; **Nancy & Paul Pelosi**; **Kay Tsenin**; **Duke Smith**; **Lawrence Wong**; **Tim Wolfred**; **Paul Melbostadt**; **Barbara & Stu Boxer**; **Lincoln Kauahi**; **Ed Petrillo** & **Eric Johnson**; **Chuck Peralta**; **Louise & Paul Renne**; **Dana Van Gorder**; **Bob Ross**; **Cynthia Laird**, and the great staff at the *Bay Area Reporter*; and so many, many others who deserve the very best for a blessed, happy holiday season and an even better New Year. ▼



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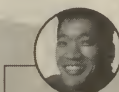
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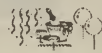
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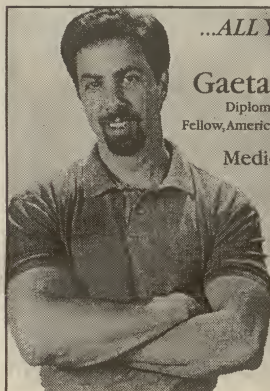
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Cause without a rebel

by Nancy Boutilier

Organizers of the Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) are looking for input. They offer three ways for you to cast your vote — by fax, by mail, or by e-mail. The online address is MOW2000@aol.com. I'm trying not to be a cynic here at the *fin de siècle*, but it seems to me that the com (as in dot.com) is an abbreviation for complacency.

The platform ballot is a multiple choice. You can vote for up to five issues you would like addressed by the March. Trouble is, the issues are so broadly and blandly painted that they might as well have put motherhood and apple pie right alongside Child Custody and Adoption Rights. How the issues will be addressed once voted for is unclear. Securing the same custody and adoption rights for homosexuals that heterosexuals have seems reasonable, but it's less clear what a vote for GLBT Aging Issues or GLBT Global Issues might mean.

I admit that I'm being hard on March organizers. I know it's difficult to harness the voices of a national GLBT public. Most probably don't even have e-mail, and since we could never reach any kind of consensus, voting offers a chance to quantify our winning issues.

Furthermore, I do know that queer parenting remains a radical act and an everyday occurrence in America. I want to fight for our right to raise children as much as the next guy. But it seems to me that the only platform at the March should be the one from which speakers express their righteousness and their rage. Political parties have platforms. A March should have a list of demands.

If this is the activism of the next millennium, then we can all take two giants steps backwards. We have lost the cutting edge we once had. Where are the extremists when you need them so that you can compromise as progressively as possible? While I suspect that I am a centrist at heart, I don't believe that a movement for social change should lead with its center. It should settle, but not start there.

While the ballot serves as a strong reminder of how many injustices remain against us, the individual items are listed in ways that make it hard to prioritize or compare. Those that seem most specific might be for feasible action items, but that should make them the highest priority. Even the very framing of some issues is too limiting for my taste.

For instance, the top item listed, and I presume them randomly placed, is Hate Crimes Legislation. Well, hate crimes legislation is only one kind of response to the violence against gay men, les-

bians, bisexuals, and transgender people, and, if you ask me, the violence against us is the issue. Though hate crimes legislation may offer a more palatable judicial response to such acts, the legislation itself is unlikely to put a dent in the actual problem.

Hate crimes legislation is the playground version of telling the teacher that classmate A is bullying classmate B. It will get the bully in trouble, but it probably won't put an end to the fights on the playground. Where is the real and present resistance? Hate crimes legislation may or may not be a right step for our country, but in my shrillest and most defiant voice I still want to ask, "What are we doing to stop the violence?" Where is the Bash Back movement? How about a set of bumper stickers with a gun-point: Armed until it is safe to be queer in America. Another gun-toting gay voter. If you can defend marriage, we should be able to defend ourselves. Or, simply, No, that's not a banana in my pocket.

Okay, I've gone overboard. I don't really mean it. I'm a believer in non-violence, after all. I vote. I pay my taxes. I stand and sing the national anthem at ball games. But this platform thing is so squeaky clean and without teeth that I just about want to sticker the Castro and pierce my nipples.

Next on the list is Right To Marry. Certainly that's a timely issue since Hawaii's Supreme Court just washed out hopes of gay marriage last week by ruling that a 1998 voter-approved constitutional amendment gives the state permission to reserve the right to marry for opposite-sex couples.

Vermont now stands alone in offering the possibility of legalizing same-sex marriage in the near future. It seems fitting that the state which gave America its most delicious same-sex duo, if not couple, should eventually be the state to offer legal queer marriage. Perhaps it's time for Ben and Jerry to release some new flavors of the month: "Same Sex Jimmies," "Peter, Paul Get Married," and "Let Them Cut Cake." Or, if there's something that the ice cream moguls have been trying to tell us, they could come out with "Ben and Jerry Marry Berry."

So, instead of a March on Washington, perhaps we should put all our eggs in one wedding basket and make it a March on Burlington.

And all the while Knight is falling on Californians — Knight initiative, that is, Proposition 22, the state's nasty little version of the Defense of Marriage Act.

David Orgon Coolidge, direc-

tor of the Marriage Law Project, has the gall to write that "Proposition 22 is not about same-sex couples." Oh, really? Could have fooled me! So, other than excluding the estimated 400,000 same-sex couples living in California from marrying or allowing this state to recognize the validity of such a ceremony that takes place in another state, which couples does the Knight initiative write out of marriage rights?

According to Coolidge, "It is about whether Californians will be allowed to decide for themselves how marriage will be defined in this state." So, with apologies to Sojourner Truth but confidence that she'd be on my side, I ask: And ain't I a Californian?

Shall I decide for you, Mr. Coolidge, how to define your marriage?

Of course,

Proposition 22 doesn't really do anything our "friends" in Washington haven't already done. Penned by elected officials and signed by our not-so-gay-friendly-after-all president, DOMA makes it quite clear that queers are not welcome to walk the aisles of holy matrimony. In short, we're second-class citizens with second-class relationships in the eyes of our national government. The Knight initiative is geared to rub it in and remind us that we're second-class Californians too.

So maybe it's time that the 800,000 people in California's 400,000 same-sex couples decide to pay second-class taxes. Perhaps, in protest of Knight's initiative, all queer Californians should withhold their tax payments. Or, better yet, to show good faith toward the state, all tax-paying gay men and lesbians in California could set up a fund in escrow to which we'd all send what we would owe the state if we were first-class citizens. The state would not receive our tax payments until we receive equal rights. It seems fair. Or, we could withhold a symbolic 10 percent of our taxes and offer it instead to those organizations fighting for our rights. Perhaps it's time to bring back civil disobedience.

For the record, the other planks to the MMOW platform up for vote are as follows: Non-Discrimination in Employment, Right to Serve Our Country, Lesbian Health Issues, AIDS/HIV Issues, Immigration Issues, GLBT Youth Issues, Overturning Anti-GLBT Laws, and Right to Privacy/Choice.

There is also room for a write-in. So, I checked the box marked "Other" and considered writing in "Let our progress be progressive," or "Unleash the movement," or "Bring back the radical fringe."

But out of habit I just wrote in "Tom Ammann for Mayor." ▼



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HISTORY LESSON

Who is Frank Kameny?

by David Bianco

December 1957 (42 years ago this month): Frank Kameny is discharged from the U.S. Army Map Service for being gay.

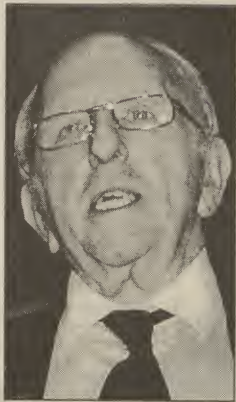
The son of middle-class Jewish New Yorkers, Frank Kameny (b. 1925) was a child prodigy who entered college to study physics at the tender age of 15. His education, however, was interrupted by active duty in the armed forces during World War II.

In the mid-1950s, while enrolled in the Ph.D. program in astronomy at Harvard, Kameny spent a year at the University of Arizona doing research. While in Tucson, he came out to himself and began frequenting the city's gay nightlife. "I took it to like a duck to water," he later quipped.

After earning his Ph.D. in 1956, Kameny accepted a teaching position at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. After one academic year, he moved to a civil service job with the U.S. Army Map Service in July 1957.

However, Kameny's gay identity soon clashed with his professional life. "I wasn't about to be [a covert kind of person] simply because I was working for the government," he told an interviewer. Late one night in Lafayette Park, a popular gay cruising area across from the White House, Kameny was arrested "for investigation" of a morals charge but quickly released.

Nothing came of the incident immediately. But that fall, Kameny was on assignment in Hawaii when his supervisor requested his immediate return to Washington. An investigator with the Civil Service Commission had been tipped off about Kameny's arrest. After only a few months on the job, Kameny was fired from the Map Service, and in January 1958, he learned that he was barred from all future employment with the



Frank Kameny

federal government.

Even though this was the start of the Space Age and his skills were in demand, Kameny was unable to find employment. "I was living for about eight months on 20 cents' worth of food a day," he recalled of those hard times. "It was a great day if I could afford five cents more and put a pat of butter on my mashed potatoes." In 1959, Kameny finally found a fallback position in physics.

Kameny's experience spurred him to militant activism. "My dismissal amounted to a declaration of war against me by the government," Kameny said. "And I tend not to lose my wars."

Kameny went through a lengthy process of suing the government to get his job back, but all of his efforts and appeals failed. After three years, Kameny's attorney retired from the case and advised Kameny to give up the fight, too. But the activist decided to pursue it on his own and learned how to file a writ with the U.S. Supreme Court. In March 1961, however, the high court rejected Kameny's petition to hear his case. "That ended the formal case," he explained, "but not the battle. The time had come to fight collectively."

With advice from the New York City chapter of the Mattachine Society, Kameny and a friend established the Washington, D.C. branch of that organization, which had started 10 years earlier in Los Angeles. The first meeting of the D.C. chapter, held on November 15, 1961, drew about 12 men and women, who elected Kameny as the new group's president.

Unlike many other gay leaders of the time, Kameny embraced direct action along the lines of the black civil rights movement. "The [gay] movement of those days was

very unassertive, apologetic, and defensive," Kameny noted. Instead of accommodating the established opinion that homosexuals were sick and perverted, Kameny believed that gay people should fight a "down-to-earth, grass-roots, sometimes tooth-and-nail" battle.

In 1962, the Washington Mattachine began its direct-action campaign. The first move was to send out a news release about its formation to President Kennedy, members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and all the Cabinet secretaries. It also began publishing a newsletter called *The Gazette*, putting officials like J. Edgar Hoover on the mailing list — much to the FBI chief's dismay.

Under Kameny's leadership, the D.C. Mattachine charged to the forefront of the nascent gay rights movement. The chapter focused on trying to reform the government's exclusionary policies toward homosexuals in federal employment and successfully lobbied the American Civil Liberties Union to take up the cause. They also organized the first gay demonstration of the White House in April 1965, in which a handful of gay men in suits and lesbians in dresses carried placards reading "First Class Treatment for Homosexuals" and "Civil Service Commission is Un-American."

A few months later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the first time decided that the rejection of an application for federal employment on the grounds of "homosexual conduct" was "too vague." The Civil Service Commission, the court ruled in *Scott vs. Macy*, failed to state "why that conduct related to occupational competence or fitness." Dogged by a long line of similar court cases, the Civil Service Commission formally amended its anti-gay policy in 1975. After 18 years, Kameny was vindicated.

Following the Stonewall riots, the D.C. Mattachine was eclipsed by newer gay groups. Although his leadership waned, Kameny's activism continued. In 1971, he ran as an out gay man to be D.C.'s non-voting delegate to Congress. He garnered only 1.6 percent of the vote, but the campaign showed that gay people would turn out to vote as a bloc — thus helping to pave the way for future electoral activism. For his pioneering efforts, Kameny is considered one of the fathers of the gay rights movement. ▼

David Bianco is the author of *Gay Essentials* (Alyson Publications), a collection of his history columns. He can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.

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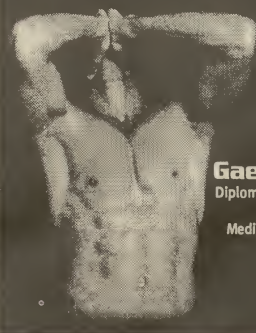
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by Jane Warner
and Ron McGlashan

Church and Duboce, December 14, 3:30 a.m.: A Muni construction worker walking near his job site was jumped by two men in the tunnel near Duboce and Church streets, who demanded his money. The construction worker resisted, and while struggling with one of the suspects, the other suspect stuck him in the shoulder with a hypodermic needle. Despite being outnumbered, the construction worker managed to knock both men to the ground and ran to get help from his co-workers. When they returned to the tunnel, however, the suspects were gone.

The suspects are described as white men in their 20s, 6 feet tall, weighing 170 pounds; one suspect was wearing a dark army jacket, the other wore dark pants and a black baseball cap.

Scarf head returns

Sparky's, 242 Church, December 12, 4:15 p.m.: A man ap-

proached the counter and ordered a beverage. When the waitress opened the cash drawer, he reached over, took a stack of money, and ran out the door. The suspect is described a white male in his mid-30s, wearing a black T-shirt, black pants, and a black scarf tied around his head. The description matches the suspect who did the same thing at Orphan Andy's restaurant the week before.



Pick-up delivery

Beck Motorlodge, 2222 Market, December 18, 7:40 a.m.: A man invited another man back to his hotel room for coffee and conversation. After the coffee, the visitor asked for some money, and the man said he didn't have any. Enraged, the visitor took a brick-like object from his jacket and hit the man in the head and face repeatedly. Several guests staying in neighboring rooms heard screams and called the police.

The suspect is described as African American male, 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighing 240 pounds, wearing a blue windbreaker and blue jeans and possibly having a birthmark on his face. The victim was taken to the hospital for his injuries.

Topless

16th and Pond, December 12, 7 a.m.: A man reported parking his Mazda Miata on the block and returning to find the top slashed and the console damaged. Stolen was the car's registration. Suspect

is unknown.

Checks and balances

Wells Fargo, 2020 Market, December 12, 5:30 p.m.: A man attempted to cash a stolen check made out for \$500. When the teller discovered the check was stolen, she dialed 911. Realizing something was wrong, the suspect ran out of the bank. A Safeway security officer tackled the man in the parking lot and held him until police arrived. Booked for numerous forgery-related charges was Charles Burnett, 44.

New Year's help needed

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police reports that while many people have been hired for New Year's Eve security help in the Castro, more positions are available. The safety officers will earn \$18 per hour from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. by being the "eyes and ears" during the millennium celebration. Interested people must sign a sobriety contract and must know the area - from Market to 18th between Noe and Diamond streets - very well. Call (415) 679-1827 for information. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information call the office at (415) 553-1651, or Ron at (415) 776-9399. The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

Jewish community helps deliver holiday meals

by Katie Szymanski

For the eighth consecutive year, nearly 100 representatives from Congregation Shav'ar Zahav and Jewish Family and Children's Services will be preparing festive holiday meals for Project Open Hand clients. The preparation, packaging, and delivery of over 1,200 holiday meals will be done by the Jewish

community on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The volunteers do everything from chopping vegetables in the morning to packaging meals in the afternoon and delivering these meals in the evening. This collaboration between Project Open Hand and the Jewish community serves over 5,000 people in San Francisco and Alameda counties.

For information on how you can help call (415) 447-2300. ▼

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Vallejo

◀ page 5

and in the process, got to know some of the city's "old guard." Vallejo, home to Marine World, has a population of about 140,000; it's the 10th largest city in Northern California.

Some of the issues facing the city include reconverting the Mare Island military facility to civilian use and to revive Vallejo's water-

front. As in San Francisco, neighborhoods are also a concern. "People are fixing up historic homes," Cloutier noted. "Vallejo's a great place of undeveloped potential."

As for his day job, Cloutier continues to work as a partner at the Law Offices of Wotman, Kors, and Cloutier. He handles a number of employment and discrimination cases, including HIV discrimination, and has been a practicing attorney for 10 years. ▼

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(Fully accessible, 1/4 mile North of Ralston via 101 or 280)
Email: ccbelmont@pacbell.net Fax: 650-593-3442
The Reverend Kristi Denham, Pastor

Sunday Programs
Bible Study and Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship (Child care available for both) 10:30 AM
Youth Group 6:00 PM

*Open and Affirming and Welcoming to All
Allow us to fold you into our worshipping family!*

Berkeley

First Baptist Church of Berkeley

Corner of Dana and Durant, Berkeley 510.848-5838
www.fbc-berkeley.org
The Reverend Esther Hargis, Pastor

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols 4:30 PM
Weekly Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Welcoming and Affirming All of God's children

First Congregational Church of Berkeley United Church of Christ

On Dana between Channing & Durant, Berkeley 510.848-3696
www.fccb.org
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Carol Services 9:00 PM & 11:00 PM
(Chancel Choir & Gabriel's Trumpet Trio, Preludes 8:30 PM & 10:40 PM)
Sunday, January 2, 2000
Berkeley Ecumenical Celebration of the New Millennium 10:00 AM
(** Mayor Shirley Dean & Patricia de Jong, Senior Minister)

Open and Affirming. We welcome you!

New Life MCC of Berkeley

1823 Ninth Street at Hearst, Berkeley 510.843-9355
The Reverend Barry Wichmann, Pastor

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Carols & Communion for ALL 11:00 PM
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Castro

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco

150 Eureka Street, SF 415.863-4434
www.mccsf.org; E-mail: mccsf@aol.com
The Reverends Jim Mitulski, Penny Nixon & Karen Foster
Christmas Eve Chapel Candlelight Service * 150 Eureka Street 7:00 PM
Community Christmas Eve Service ** Festival Choir & Orchestra 11:00 PM
(* The Second Church of Christ Science on Dolores between 19th & 20th Sts.)
Christmas Morning Worship * 150 Eureka Street 11:00 AM
Community Christmas Dinner ** Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy 12:00 NOON
Weekly Sunday Worship 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM
Weekly Wednesday Evening Candlelight Prayer 7:00 PM

"A House of Prayer For All People"

Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

100 Diamond Street at 18th, SF 415.863-6259
The Reverend Zachary Shore, Pastor

Christmas Eve
Carol Service 9:30 PM
Liturgy of Christmas 10:00 PM
Christmas Day Liturgies 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
New Year's Eve
Liturgies 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM
Millennium Prayer Service 7:30 PM
New Year's Day Liturgies 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

St. Andrews Spiritualist Church

* The Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco

150 Eureka Street, SF In the Chapel
The Reverend Vernon Link 415.239-2500
The Reverend Mary Rose Czajka 510.261-7881
Weekly Sunday Service (Healing at all services) 2:00 PM

St. Francis Lutheran Church

152 Church Street at Market, SF 415.621-2635
Free Parking at Safeway
Phyllis Zillhart, Michael Hillier, Ruth Frost

Christmas Eve 11:00 PM
Christmas Day 11:00 AM
Weekly Sunday Services 11:00 AM

Cathedral Hill

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street at Geary, SF 415.776-4580
www.sfo.com/~uusf; E-mail: uusf@sfo.com
Margot Campbell Gross & John N. Marsh, Co-Ministers

Christmas Eve Services 4:45 PM
Family Service 8:00 PM
Candlelight Service of Music & Celebration 10:00 PM
Communion 11:00 PM
Sunday, December 26: Kwanzaa Celebration 11:00 AM

An intentionally diverse, welcoming congregation

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street, SF 415.928-7770
The Reverends Elizabeth Ekdale & Jan Womer, Co-Pastors

Christmas Eve Services 6:00 PM
Service of Carols, Holy Communion & Children's Christmas Pageant 11:00 PM
Candlelight Choral Eucharist 11:00 PM
Christmas Day Festival Choral Eucharist 11:00 AM

Ample Parking - Near Geary & Van Ness Bus Lines

Civic Center

St. Boniface Catholic Church

133 Golden Gate Avenue, SF 415.863-7515
Franciscan Friars

Daily Masses 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 12:15 PM
English 10:30 AM
Spanish (Sunday) 3:30 PM
Vietnamese (Sunday)

*We are committed to proclaiming God's inclusive love,
welcoming and affirming all people of every race, gender,
sexual orientation, place of national origin and economic status*

Haight-Ashbury

All Saints' Episcopal Church

1350 Waller Street, SF (Between Masonic & Ashbury Sts.) 415.621-1862
www.webmen.com/asp.htm
The Reverend Dr. Kenneth L. Schmidt, Rector

Christmas Eve Solemn Mass followed by festival reception 9:00 PM
Christmas Day Mass 10:00 AM

Inner Sunset

Dignity/San Francisco

1329 Seventh Avenue, SF 415.681-2491

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 9:00 PM
Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday, December 26th) 5:30 PM
Weekly Sunday Mass 5:30 PM

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Catholics

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into the next millennium!

Mission

Dolores Street Baptist Church

938 Valencia Street at Liberty, SF 415.826-2641
www.welcome.to.dsbc; E-mail: doloresstreetchurch@mailexcite.com
Doug Donley, Pastor

Sunday, December 26
Blessing of the Toys (Doug Donley, Preaching) 11:00 AM

*We are a Welcoming and Affirming congregation
committed to prayer, doing justice and interfaith dialogue.
We wish all of San Francisco a very blessed holiday season.*

Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist

1661 Fifteenth Street at Julian (415) 861-1436
(Two blocks from 16th & Mission BART Station)

Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM
Christmas Day Service 11:00 AM

*Diverse People, Inquiring Minds, Open Hearts
All are welcome!*

Nob Hill

Oasis/California

A Service of the Episcopal LGBT Ministry
www.oasiscalifornia.org

Saturday, January 29, 2000 3:00 PM
Hear: Christian de la Huerta, author of *Coming Out Spiritually*
Grace Cathedral (California at Taylor Street)
Celebrate Queer Spirit with Bay Area Friends

Noe Valley

Bethany United Methodist Church

1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper, SF 415.647-8393
The Reverend Karen P. Oliveto, Pastor

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM
A Service for the Child in All of Us 11:00 PM
Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 11:00 AM
Christmas Day Worship followed by Community Brunch 11:00 AM

Let Our Family be Your Family this Holiday Season!

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church - Noe Valley

455 Fair Oaks Street, SF 415.824-5142
(Between Dolores & Guerrero, 25th & 26th Sts.)
The Reverend Armand Kreft, Vicar

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM
All Family Service 10:30 PM
Choir Concert 11:00 PM
Festival Eucharist 11:00 AM
Christmas Day Choral Eucharist 11:00 AM

A Safe Place to Be

Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

1021 Sanchez, SF (Between 23rd & 24th Sts.) 415.282-2317
The Reverend Keenan Kelsey, Pastor

Open Choir: Sundays 9:30 AM
Weekly Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

A More Light Church: God's Inclusive Love Practiced Here

Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church

1508 Church Street at 27th Street, SF 415.642-0294
Jim Mitulski and Kristen Klein-Cechettini, Ministers

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 PM
Weekly Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

*Proudly serving the Queer Communities of the Mission, Noe Valley,
Bernal Heights and Glen Park with social justice spirituality*

Pacific Heights

Calvary Presbyterian Church

2515 Fillmore at Jackson Street, SF 415.346-3832
www.calvarypresbyterian.org

Drs. Laird J. Stuart & Hugh Burrows and The Reverend Joanne Whit, Pastors
Weekly Sunday Worship 8:45 AM & 11:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Worship, Education, Community Service, Fellowship, Music

A Welcoming Community

Potrero Hill

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

500 DeHarro Street at Mariposa, SF 415.255-8100
www.saintgregorys.org

The Reverends Richard Fabian & Donald Schell, Rectors
Weekly Saturday Liturgy 5:00 PM
Weekly Sunday Liturgy and Sunday School 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

*Come sing and dance to Jesus' lead
Welcoming all people into God's friendship*

Twin Peaks

St. John's United Church of Christ

501 Laguna Honda Blvd at Woodside Ave, SF 415.731-9333
Roger Ridgway, Pastor; David Mundy, Seminary Intern

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 7:30 PM
Sunday, January 2, 2000 10:00 AM

"Celebrating 10 years as an Open and Affirming Congregation"

An Ecumenical Service ** Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church

Weekly Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

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United Church of Christ
Post & Mason Streets, SF 415.394-7461
Fax: 415.291.8123; E-mail: firstuccsf@aol.com
www.sanfranciscoucc.org

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Weekly Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

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Layout: Michael Cronin, MCC/SF

UNITED in SPIRIT
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Christmas 1999 & New Millennium Services

1999 national news in review

by Bob Roehr

Death stalked the coverage of gay and lesbian issues this year. **Matthew Shepard** lived again in the trial of his killers in Laramie, Wyoming. The intrigue surrounding **Billy Jack Gaither's** beating and incineration in rural Alabama was a Southern Gothic interpretation of the same tale. The bludgeoning of Private First Class **Barry Winchell** while he slept in an Army barracks at Fort Campbell, Kentucky sparked a renewed assault on the failed policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT).

DADT remains the single most egregious example of overt gov-

ernment discrimination against its gay and lesbian citizens. So the renewed and increasing opposition to that policy in the mainstream media is a welcome sign.

Bill Bradley, Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton, and Al Gore recently and successively have come to voice words of opposition to aspects of the policy and its implementation. But it is important to remember that three of these people are at the very pinnacle of an administration that had the power to prevent such misimplementation, yet they did not do so.

The ongoing pursuit of Army Reserve Lieutenant and Arizona legislator **Steve May** under DADT will ensure that the issue remains on public view throughout the primary campaign season.



DADT victim Steve May

sure forced the Bank of Scotland to drop a deal that would have been very lucrative for the televangelist.

AIDS

The miracle of **protease inhibitors (PI)** largely continues to hold. The cloud on this horizon is that opportunistic infections are again creeping back up in numbers, which indicates that PIs work better for some people than for others.

This fall, the Food and Drug Administration **declined to approve** an AIDS drug for the first time in the history of the epidemic. The nucleotide analog **adefovir** simply was not that powerful, carried significant but manageable side effects, and was hampered by poor proof of how to use it. Gilead Sciences, the sponsor, subsequently decided to drop development and concentrate on a second-generation product now entering clinical trials. This caused barely a ripple in the AIDS community, something impossible to imagine only a few years ago.

Stability at home allowed activists and the media to focus on the huge and escalating problems of **HIV throughout the world**. Nations such as Zimbabwe have lost the entire gain in life expectancy made since World War II, an average of two decades in life span. A quarter of the adult population may be infected in southern Africa. The economic impact is devastating.

Activists had some success at turning around the Clinton administration policy that hampered foreign governments' efforts to procure AIDS therapies at reduced cost. But many of those governments feel that even with slashed prices, the drugs remain far too expensive to consider for widespread use in their nations.

A vaccine against HIV infection remains the best hope for much of the world. This year saw the start of the first large-scale human trials of an HIV vaccine in the U.S., Uganda, and Thailand. Researchers see these trials as more of a learning process than a final product. It will be several years before results are known.

Politics

San Francisco was home to two of the biggest political symbols in 1999. **James Hormel's** travails in becoming the first openly gay ambassador, in this case to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, ended when President Clinton made a "recess appointment" at the start of June and Hormel was sworn in on the 29th.

Tom Ammiano's November write-in effort sent shock waves throughout the Bay Area and made him the first serious openly gay candidate for mayor of a



Murder victim Billy Jack Gaither

major American city. Better yet, the fact that he was gay had little negative impact on the campaign, however, Ammiano lost the race.

The political tide seems to have turned in many states and localities, though the fight for equality is far from over. Proposed **gay-friendly legislation** surpassed the negative for the first time in history. The number of openly lesbian or gay elected officials continues to inch upward, including the first gay Republican mayor, Dan Stewart of Plattsburgh, New York.

Congress was noticeably quieter on gay issues this year after the landmark defeat of the anti-gay **Hefley amendment** last year. The brunt of hateful amendments fell on measures affecting the District of Columbia, and even there an attempt to prohibit gays from adopting was turned back.

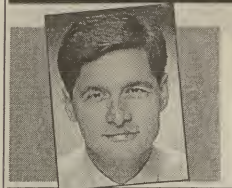
The **Human Rights Campaign (HRC)** was not able to muster enough support to push through the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Hate crimes legislation "passed" the Senate on a procedural agreement but died in conference.

The Federal Elections Commission reined in the **Christian Coalition** on its "non-partisan" political activity, while a number of key employees fled the organization, contributing to its waning influence. Meanwhile **Gary Bauer**, formally with the Family Research Council and the self-proclaimed presidential candidate of the Christian right, continues to hover around 1 percent in national polls of likely voters.

As the year ends, the Democratic candidates for president—Vice President **Al Gore** and former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley**—are ardently courting the gay vote while the leading Republican candidates, **George W. Bush** and **John McCain**, have at least forsworn gay-bashing of the **Pat Buchanan** variety. All of these four have openly gay members in their campaign organizations.

The **Millennium March on Washington** had enough opposition, dissension, and internal upheavals to sink most groups. It is still afloat. But organizational survival by itself will not be enough to carry out the demanding tasks of organizing a successful march. The clock is ticking on this one. ▼

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www.crixivan.com

■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

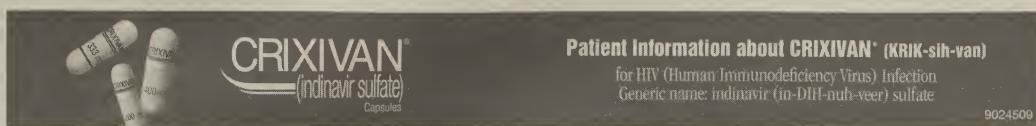
For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.



**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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995455(6/99)-CRX-CON

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
 Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024509

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?***

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPOFOL® (propofol)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness). In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddi) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.
 MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
 RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
 SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
 SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication. In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

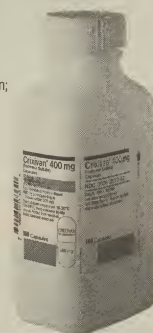
Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIXIVAN®
 (indinavir sulfate)
 Capsules

Issued June 1999
 MERCK & CO., INC.
 West Point, PA 19486, USA

1999 IN REVIEW

1999 in review

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specifically invited, San Francisco attorney Charlie Spiegel organized a contingent anyway, and brought along his 22-month-old daughter Nora. "Real progress will be measured by where we are a year from now," Spiegel said. "Not by what happens today."

The next week, AIDS activists blasted Davis for his **first state budget**, which proposed cutting \$4.1 million from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and maintaining his Republican predecessor's flat-lining on HIV prevention funding.

Petaluma became the first city in Sonoma County to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees on January 4. With its unanimous vote, the City Council also created a registry for unmarried couples who live or work within its borders.



Jane Philomen Cleland

SF Supes President Tom Ammiano

San Francisco Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** was sworn in as the city's second openly gay president of the Board of Supervisors at a January 8 ceremony in the glow of the glamorously rejuvenated City Hall. Outgoing president, Supervisor Barbara Kaufman ambushed Ammiano during the solemn ceremony, dubbing him "queen of the realm" as she presented him with a small feather scepter and gold tiara before an appreciative crowd. With a quip, the new board president took it all in stride: "We're not in Kansas anymore."

United Airlines announced on Monday, January 11, that it would comply with the city of Los Angeles' living wage ordinance while at the same time continuing to fight San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, which requires companies that do business with the city to offers benefits to domestic partners of their employees if those benefits are offered to employee's spouses.

On January 12, the San Francisco Department of Public Health announced "Positive Step," a \$140,000 **back-to-work** referral program for people recovering their health from AIDS-related illness.

On January 16, Sacramento lesbians **Jeanne Barnett** and **Ellie Charlton** were joined in a holy union at the Sacramento Convention Center. The Reverend Don Fado presided, and **Fred Phelps** and his homophobic protesters showed up to denounce the "wedding."

A man was found dead in the early morning hours of January 17 in a police parking lot near the End Up night club in the South of Market neighborhood. Officers from the San Francisco Police Department said the man had been dead for about two days, and speculated that he may have overdosed on **gamma hydroxy butyrate** acid. The party drug, and its sister drug, gamma butyrolac-

tone (GBL), were causing an increasing number of overdoses among late-night dancers at SOMA clubs.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission on January 22 found New Leaf, a mental health and substance abuse agency serving the gay and lesbian community, **guilty of sex discrimination** against several male counselors. The counselors had charged they were not given as much supervision as their female counterparts.

Twelve-year-old Life Scout **Steve Cozza** of Petaluma held a rally at San Francisco's Union Square on January 23 as part of his campaign to pressure the Boys Scouts of America to drop its discriminatory policy excluding gays and lesbians from scouting.

The San Francisco HIV Prevention Planning Council reversed an earlier decision and voted overwhelmingly on January 28 to follow the **open meeting requirements** of the city's Sunshine Ordinance, but not the even more open meeting requirements included in the state's Ralph M. Brown Act. Following a complaint filed by the *Bay Area Reporter*, the city attorney's office had recommended that the DPH advisory group comply with both laws. But HPPC members said that, as an advisory group to the city health department mandated under federal guidelines, the HPPC should be able to meet in private sessions to talk about HIV prevention issues without public scrutiny.

On January 29, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that rates of **unprotected anal sex** appeared to be on the rise among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco. The report was based on local rates of rectal gonorrhea, and surveys conducted by the Stop AIDS Project.

February

On the first day of the month, two community organizations based in San Francisco got new executive directors: former DPH AIDS Office staffer and nurse **Marcy Fraser** took over at Continuum, a day care center for people with HIV/AIDS; longtime AIDS services organizer **Avi Rose** took the helm at Project Inform, a national HIV/AIDS treatment and advocacy organization.

Mayor Willie Brown **lost his temper** on February 2 when reporters asked about his using United Airlines to fly to New York and Washington, D.C., despite an ongoing legal battle with the city over the airline's rejection of the equal benefits ordinance, and a boycott of the airline called by gay rights groups.

Latino protesters were calling Latino tranny promoters and performers "racist mariposas" and other names on the night of February 2 outside the Stud, a South of Market gay nightclub that was hosting the second annual "Wet-back Night." The Latino/as handed out fliers at the event officially changing the name to "Mexican Heritage Night." This didn't deter protesters from spray-painting the walls of the bar after closing with inflammatory slogans, such as "Racist White Bitches."

Castro area parents and other community members at a packed Merchants of Upper Market and Castro meeting on February 4 offered a strong "not-in-my-backyard" resistance to a city proposal to turn the Eureka Valley Recreation Center's auditorium into a temporary emergency nighttime shelter for about 30 LGBT youth. Supervisors Leslie Katz, Tom Ammiano, and Mark Leno had hoped to open the shelter by February 1, but the opening was delayed by

the angry neighbors who were concerned that the shelter would be a "magnet" for youth to the neighborhood.



Cynthia Laird

AIDS activist Reggie Williams

Reggie Williams, an international HIV/AIDS and human rights activist best known as the founding director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention in San Francisco, died at an Amsterdam hospital of AIDS-related complications on February 7.

Same-sex marriage supporters in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Berkeley celebrated the second annual **Freedom to Marry Day** on February 12 with peaceful protests, proclamations, and other commemorations.

A bloodied **Adam Colton**, an openly gay Novato 17-year-old, collapsed as he stumbled into a classroom at San Marin High School on February 12 after his second alleged **anti-gay assault** in five months. He was rushed to a local hospital and treated for cuts and bruises. The word "fag" was scrawled on his stomach and forearm. Some 300 Marin County residents attended a rally on February 20 to show their support for Colton and other recent hate crime victims in the area.

The San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee reported on February 16 that a few people had nominated **Tinky Winky** for grand marshal of the 1999 Pride Parade. Tinky Winky is a large purple Teletubby character from a children's TV program. The nominations followed an outing "alert" issued the previous week from the Reverend Jerry Falwell. Falwell warned the American public that the non-gender specific character was in fact a male closeted homosexual who posed a threat to young viewers, citing as evidence Tinky Winky's male voice, the "magic bag" it carries, a triangle on its head, and its purple color.

On February 18, San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz announced plans to move forward with a city-funded **temporary shelter** for LGBT youth at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center in the Castro neighborhood. Katz said the shelter plan had been modified to address neighbor's concerns.

Jim Reid, a self-employed general contractor and openly gay candidate for San Francisco mayor, spent several nights in February sleeping in homeless shelters, saying he wanted to learn about the services provided – or not provided – to the city's homeless.

Four women, former sales associates at the exclusive **Chanel** boutique in San Francisco's Union Square, sued the store on February 8 in United States District Court. The suit alleged sexual orientation and gender bias, claiming that the store's openly gay manager forced women out of their positions so that he could hire gay men.

The San Francisco District Attorney's office appealed to the LGBT community for help in finding the killers of 41-year-old **Eric Keller**, a closeted bisexual and resident of San Jose who was found dead near Interstate 80 in Vacaville in the early morning hours of January 11. Investigators suspected the murder may have been an **anti-gay hate crime**, and said they believed Keller, who had been brutally assaulted, may have been tortured before his death.

During the final week of the month, millionaire and former political consultant **Clint Reilly** announced his candidacy for mayor of San Francisco, and Board of Supervisors president Tom Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter* that after a meeting with Mayor Brown, he was "reassessing" both his decision to endorse Brown's re-election bid, and to not enter the race himself.

March

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on March 1 to permit the closing of one block of Castro Street on Easter Sunday to allow the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** to stage their 20th anniversary celebration, which the Sisters had dubbed "Easter 1999: Two Decades of Decadence." The board continued to revisit the issue for weeks in the face of vehement opposition from the Roman Catholic Church, which compared the charitable "nuns" to "neo-Nazis." Defending the Sisters' constitutional right to free speech as the controversy boiled over, board President Tom Ammiano delivered one of his trade-

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"ARE YOU Y2K READY?"

"WHY NOT UPGRADE YOUR HARDWARE?"

OUR NEW WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STARTS THIS MONTH!

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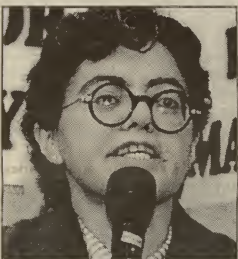
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mark quotes during the debate: "Walk a mile in my pumps."

Conley Greene, an openly gay man who suffered five years of anti-gay harassment from his supervisor at the state Department of Health Services, including repeated taunts of "faggot," "fairy," and other epithets, as well as physical intimidation, settled on March 1 for a "substantial monetary award" from the state agency. Greene also kept a job with DHS in a different unit.

The San Francisco HIV Services Planning Council, a community panel chartered by the federal government to prioritize the city's annual spending of Ryan White CARE Act funds, published an advertisement in early March seeking a qualified contractor to conduct a first-ever **independent assessment** of the city's AIDS Office, officially called the Department of Public Health's HIV Health Services Division. The assessment was expected to be complete by June. Noting that the planning council perceived an inherent conflict of interest in AIDS Office staff also providing staff support for a council charged with evaluating the success or failure of the AIDS Office's work, co-chair Tom Calvanese said that his council also wanted its own permanent staff.



Lucrecia Bermúdez

Latina lesbian **Lucrecia Bermúdez**, a progressive, announced she was running for mayor of San Francisco on March 8, International Women's Day.

Also on March 8, the University of California at San Francisco and DPH announced that the first **HIV vaccine trial** ever to be conducted in the Bay Area was open to enrollment. Researchers expected to recruit 300 local men who have sex with men for the national placebo-controlled study, which would evaluate the effectiveness of a recombinant vaccine known as AIDSVAX in preventing HIV infections.

A San Francisco jury awarded \$163,000 on March 10 to Steve Iacovino, an HIV-positive gay man, after finding that Dr. Franklin Hoagland, an orthopedic surgeon with the University of California at San Francisco, was **medically negligent** in refusing to surgically replace Iacovino's necrotic shoulder because his immune system was too suppressed. Instead, the doctor told his patient to "hope for a cure" for his illness.

About 150 people turned out for March 13 three-hour vigil in San Francisco for **Billy Jack Gaither**, a 39-year-old gay man who had been beaten, thrown into the trunk of his car, driven to a remote location, castrated, clubbed to death with an ax handle, and then burned atop old tires doused in gasoline in Alabama.

On March 15, openly gay, longtime San Francisco resident **Dehue Marshall** filed suit against Yellow Cab Cooperative, Inc. and cab driver Patrick Callahan in San Francisco Superior Court. Marshall alleged that while riding in Callahan's cab on November 12, 1998, he asked the cabbie not to smoke, which brought on a barrage of homophobic name-calling, physical assaults, and generally being denied full and equal accommodation as he was thrown out of the cab.

Also in mid-March, Sinisa "Sonny" Vukic, an openly gay man who in June 1996 was riding a Muni bus with his lover when he suffered an **assault from an off-duty, uniformed Muni driver**, received a \$150,000 settlement to settle his personal injury claim against the city transit agency. Eventually fired by Muni, attacker Wardy Joubert served seven weeks in the county jail for the anti-gay crime, which witnesses said was

provoked by a kiss between the two men.

The school district in Bakersfield settled a sexual orientation discrimination lawsuit filed by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of **Dr. James Merrick**, an award-winning schoolteacher who had 15 of his eighth-grade students pulled from his class because he is gay. The school district issued an apology and adopted policies protecting gay and lesbian employees from discrimination.

Hundreds gathered on March 21 in Sacramento for "**Equality Begins at Home**," a day of events and rallies to build support for legislation protecting gay and lesbian rights. It was the first major organizing effort of the new statewide organization devoted to lobbying the Legislature for gay rights, the California Alliance for Pride and Equality. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force spearheaded the events, which took place in all 50 states.

Chris Keener, a 22-year employee of the Boy Scouts of America who had been fired for being gay, filed suit in Sacramento Superior Court on March 23, alleging sexual orientation discrimination.

Mayor Willie Brown officiated at his third annual **same-sex "wedding" ceremony** for 190 couples in the rotunda of City Hall on March 26. While not legally binding, the symbolic ceremonies are said to provide a public recognition of gay and lesbian couples.

April

The spring season brought new life to the LGBT communities, who once again were riled up enough to ensure that hatred and discrimination were met with justice.

Current and former workers of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation **alleged discrimination** within the agency, claiming that Latino/a employees were routinely offered lower salaries and met with hardball tactics when they tried to complain. Leading the case was Erik Dubon, the manager of SFAF's *Vida y Movimiento* until the foundation pulled the

plug on the Latino outreach program in 1998. The city's Human Rights Commission began an investigation.

A transgender woman who was illegally strip-searched by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department was awarded \$755,000 in San Francisco Superior Court on April 16. **Victoria Schneider**



Victoria Schneider

said two deputies violated her civil rights during an arrest for prostitution in 1996 when they performed a strip search in order to confirm her gender. The jury agreed.

And, in a big victory for free speech, the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** were permitted to perform their street theater in the Castro on Easter Sunday. Weeks of nonstop media coverage of the battle between the highly-offended Archdiocese of San Francisco and the overly-expressive Sisters and their supporters culminated in the Board of Supervisors upholding the First Amendment over special interests. Rookie Supervisor **Alicia Becerril** lashed out, saying board President Tom Ammiano missed his opportunity to bring communities together, but the B.A.R. applauded Ammiano for his leadership abilities. Over 5,000 people attended the Sisters' celebration.

Spring fever brought some crazy energy, as witnessed by the rash of **armed robberies in the Castro**. Held up at gunpoint were 7-Eleven, A Different Light bookstore, and Cafe Monaco, and in

separate incidents, a couple of pedestrians in the neighborhood. The suspect was eventually apprehended.



The late Brownie Mary Rathbun

April also saw the passing of **Brownie Mary**, an activist best known for delivering marijuana brownies to people with AIDS, and the short-lived appointment of **Ruth Bukowiecki** as the executive director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

In a bold move, the **FAO Schwartz** toy stores in both New York and San Francisco displayed a gay-positive message to kids with the "It's Okay to be Different" exhibit, and the **San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus** returned \$15,000 worth of grants to **United Airlines** to protest the company's fight against domestic partnership benefits.

May

What better way to mark the transition into summer than to be handed a batch of inevitable verdicts and unsurprising stories? Yes, May marked the month of news we could have predicted from inside a tin can: para-military organizations are institutionally biased, and non-profits with big salaries are just a tad sketchy.

Taking the lead in affirming what we already believed, **SFAF** released its 1998 tax figures, showing that the foundation continued to give its top managers salary raises while simultaneously cutting its programs. SFAF's board of

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HIVCare Research Center

Offering **State-of-the-Art** Treatments For People with HIV

For newly diagnosed people

- 1 vs. 2 protease inhibitors, plus D4T and 3TC
- Either Crixivan or Crixivan plus Viracept
- 24-week study
- Free labs and study medications

For people with 50-300 CD4 cells

- IL-2 (interleukin 2, T-cell growth factor)
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For people on antivirals with anemia

- Procrit (a red blood cell growth factor)
- 16-week study
- Procrit (red-blood cell growth factor) for people who have
- Hemoglobin less than 11.0
- Procrit provided

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- Dose escalation study
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HIV and HCV Coinfection

- For people who become anemic while on treatment for Hep C
- Must be on HIV treatment at least 4 weeks
- No current opportunistic infections
- Procrit treatment starts if/when Hgb goes below 12 g/dL

HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital at 900 Hyde Street in San Francisco.

For more information, please call

* **Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215.**

1999 IN REVIEW

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directors gave Executive Director **Pat Christen** an 11.8 percent raise, to \$183,892, a figure three times her starting salary of \$64,000 in 1990. Male executives



SFAF Exec. Director Pat Christen

generally fared better in salary increases, gaining anywhere from 7 to 17 percent, while women other than Christen gained 4 percent at the most.

The **San Francisco Police Department** was sued by a transsexual woman who said she was discriminated against when the SFPD refused to hire her. **Cristiana D. Rivas** failed two department-issued psychological exams

when she applied to be a police officer, one of which included a city-appointed psychologist asking her why she didn't go into cosmetics. Rivas sought \$4 million in San Francisco Superior Court to make up for the 30 years of the salary she anticipated.

On May 27, a federal court judge upheld San Francisco's domestic partnership law and ordered **United Airlines** executives to bite the bullet and start treating their workers fairly. Of course, they didn't, and the case remains in court today.

In a study that put two and two together, the University of North Carolina announced that **stress gives HIV-ers AIDS**. Those with less of a support system and with more than average stress levels were 2 to 3 times more likely to progress from having HIV to developing full-blown AIDS, according to the report in *Psychosomatic Medicine*.

Also on the health front, the San Francisco Department of Public Health announced that **AIDS cases had declined** in the city, while HIV rates remained steady.

The move to **re-open the bathhouses** continued to pick up steam, with groups on all sides of the issue meeting with the mayor's office and DPH in an attempt to address the private sex ban. And, due to the rise in **GHB fatalities**, night clubs began to post warning

about the drug, particularly noting the deadly effects of mixing it with alcohol.

May ended on a sad note, with the passing of drag performer **Charles Pierce**, who was 72 when he died in his North Hollywood home from complications of cancer and a stroke.

June

And then, it was the month of action. Whether we came close to passing groundbreaking measures or nipped those pesky right-wingers in the bud, June was when we *got things done*. It was, of course, also the month of Pride, and June shaped up pretty quickly as a 30-day queer holiday party.

Starting things off with a splash, the city's own **HIV Prevention Planning Council** voted to recommend that the city end the bathhouse ban. In the end, of course, DPH ignored these recommendations, but most activists agreed the HPPC vote was historic.

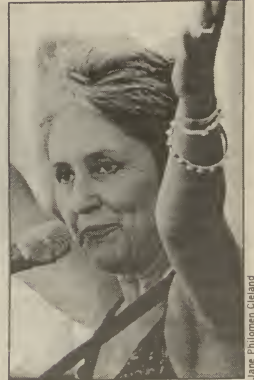
AB222, the **student non-discrimination bill** lost in the California state Assembly by one measly vote. The bill, introduced by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), would have protected queer students from harassment. Kuehl re-introduced the bill later in the year, and it passed without specifically identifying LGBT students. Opponents of the bill compared homosexuality with

pedophilia, adultery, and bestiality, but told Kuehl not to take it personally.

Finally, the 29th annual LGBT Pride Celebration included many warm-ups before the big parade, which included the first-ever **Drag March** down Market Street on June 25.

The seventh annual **Dyke March** began with controversy, proving once again that lesbians who make their mark will always anger gay men in the Castro. Letters poured in over the spray painting of the words, "Dyke March" on Castro streets, all from men who saw the move as disrespectful on the part of the ladies. Of course, there was no such outrage in the Mission — where the same logo was painted twice as often — and one wonders if the same ruckus would have ensued had the paint advertised a circuit party. From the same camp came letters declaring dykes as "egotistic" and "self-centered" because the Pride Parade's official name started with the initial "L" for lesbian. These writers proposed the less egotistic solution of having the word "gay" used for everyone.

But the Dyke March — 40,000 mostly-naked women strong — set a tone for Pride that went beyond festive. In the after-party in the Castro on June 26, one could see live sex on top of Castro bus stops and chicks with dicks on every corner.



Joan Baez at the Pride Celebration

The June 27 **Pride Parade** made the month with a daylong revelry of floats, dancing, and entertainment to celebrate our "Proud Heritage, Powerful Future." The Women's Motorcycle Contingent kicked off the event, and gay activist **Harry Hay** and the organization **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** were the grand marshals. A moment of silence was held at noon for the victims of AIDS, domestic violence, breast cancer, and anti-gay violence. Overall, the crowd was inundated with images of hard bodies and alternative families. ▼

Vermont

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equal system for lesbian and gay couples that is simply not called 'marriage.'

Either way, the ruling makes the strong statement that same-sex couples are equal to opposite-sex couples and sets up the framework for the legalization of gay marriage in Vermont, which gives California's upcoming ballot measure known as the Knight initiative even more importance.

The initiative — known as Proposition 22 on the March 7, 2000 ballot, would limit marriage to one man and one woman. Proponents of the measure claim it is about "defending traditional marriage," but LGBT rights advocates warn that it actually jeopardizes much more than the freedom to marry.

"In every state where a Knight-like initiative has passed, it has been used in an attempt to dismantle basic rights for gays and lesbians, like hospital visitation, adoption, and inheritance," said Mike Marshall, No on Knight campaign manager, during a press conference Monday outside San Francisco City Hall to applaud the Vermont decision.

The Vermont victory will no doubt add fuel to the right-wing assertion that California needs to defend itself against gay marriage, but gay rights advocates at the news conference emphasized that Vermont did not legalize gay marriage, it simply instructed the Legislature to end discrimination in benefits.

"This is less about calling something marriage than it is about equal protections," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Marshall then read a statement from state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), author of the Knight initiative, that stated Knight "had no problem" with gay couples living together in committed relationships but believed marriage should be limited to a man and a woman.

With that logic, according to San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, Knight and his followers should embrace Vermont's decision to supply same-sex marriage benefits without necessarily calling it "marriage."

"I invite Senator Knight to pick up the challenge," said Leno, "and adhere to the Constitution."

Across the country, gay rights advocates hailed the Vermont decision as a far-reaching statement in favor of equality.

"I am proud to be a Vermonter," Ed Flanagan, Vermont's openly gay state auditor and U.S. Senate candidate, told the B.A.R. "The ruling extends further than

any other state has in providing equal rights and opportunities to gay couples. The principle discussion that remains should now be limited to language, not substance."

Right-wing groups were also quick to respond, calling the ruling a threat to the country's well-being.

"Society has a vested interest in prohibiting behavior that endangers the health or safety of the community," said a statement from the American Family Association. "Because of this, homosexual liaisons have historically been forbidden by law."

The Vermont ruling stems from a suit filed in 1997 by three

same-sex couples — Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan, Holly Puterbaugh and Lois Farnham, and Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles — after they were denied marriage licenses by their local town clerks. The Supreme Court began hearing arguments in the case 13 months ago, eventually finding no constitutional basis for denying equal benefits to same-sex couples. The Vermont Legislature

has been instructed to act swiftly to pass a law in accordance with the ruling, which means more than 140 rights will be automatically granted to same-sex couples who get hitched, a huge improvement over the minimal domestic partnership policies already in place in some cities and counties. With this victory, gay rights advocates agree, there is no turning back. ▼

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33 million and counting – the HIV pandemic at millennium's end

by Jeff Gustavson, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Think the AIDS crisis is over? Think again. UNAIDS last month reported that 2.6 million people will have died of AIDS in 1999, the largest number ever for a single year. Since 1980, the AIDS pandemic has prematurely ended in excess of 16 million lives. UNAIDS estimates that 50 million persons have been infected with HIV since 1980, 33 million of which are still alive, 5.6 million infections occurring this year. Ninety-five percent of infections are in developing nations, which hold 10 percent of the world's wealth. There is still neither a cure nor an effective vaccine.

David Ho, *Time* magazine's man of the year in 1996, wrote an essay in that magazine last month that even if an effective vaccine were found, it would take an enormous amount of political will to get it to where it is most needed in the developing world. Some have argued that the lack of infrastructure precludes getting medications to the people in the poorest nations on earth. At a World AIDS Day event at City Hall, in a moving speech, former East Bay Congressman Ron Dellums spoke about the need to commence the task, rather than fretting about how large it looms. "How do you eat a rhinoceros? One bite at a time." In other words, create the infrastructure at the same time as you are delivering the medicine – don't wait. San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Amiano introduced a resolution last Monday that called on the World Trade Organization (WTO) to "safeguard access to essential drugs, especially HIV drugs, and reaffirm the primacy of public health interests over commercial considerations".

Think ACT UP is irrelevant in the late 1990s? Think again. Getting medicine to Africa and elsewhere has been brought to the forefront largely through the efforts of ACT UP/New York and ACT UP/Philadelphia. They charged the greed of the pharmaceutical manufacturers was preventing poorer countries from manufacturing the drugs themselves, since they could not afford the exorbitant prices (\$15,000 U.S.) of what has become the U.S. and Western Europe's standard of care. They dogged Vice President Al Gore on his campaign trail, and got the White House to declare on World AIDS Day that "... we will ensure the application of U.S. trade law related to intellectual property, such as Special 301, remains sufficiently flexible to respond to legitimate public health crises ...". The WTO agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) allows the flexibility for all WTO members to respond to public health crises. As a related policy objective, we continue to assist developing countries create the public health in-

frastructure that will allow treatments to be utilized effectively. ACT UP will monitor the situation to ensure this isn't just more empty rhetoric.

There are ethical issues of international trials which the pharmaceutical industry as well as government-sponsored trials have yet to fully address. The \$43 million dollar grant announced recently by the National Institutes of Health to study IL-2 internationally (interleukin 2, a cytokine centrally involved in many pathways in the immune system) has not adequately dealt with the issue of substandard anti-retroviral care in countries where it will be enrolling. Notoriously, prevention of mother to child transmission trials have focused on pre-

venting infection of the child while failing to treat the mother's HIV infection. Who do they think will care for all those orphans? Clearly, more oversight is needed.

Think access to medication is just a Third World issue? Think again. Across the United States, there are no federally mandated requirements for the implementation of nationally funded but state administered ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program). This program for uninsured and underinsured persons, delivered in "block grants" to the states, varies widely

ACT UP. Accelerated approval was designed to allow new agents be approved for a life-threatening illness where no other treatment existed. Towards that end, the Food and Drug Administration recently sent correspondence to the pharmaceutical companies stating that "... it is expected that most new drug applications for antiretrovirals submitted under the accelerated approval mechanism will include some clinical data in patients with limited treatment options." This implies that the bar for accelerated approval will be raised higher, as it should.

Think it's easy being positive? Think again. AIDS discrimination still exists. This is perhaps the strongest argument against implementing names reporting in California, one of the last hold-outs in the United States. Despite Assemblywoman Carole Migden's twice passing of a bill to require feasibility of a unique identifier system, former Governor Pete Wilson as well as current Governor Gray Davis have vetoed it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued new guidelines asking states and local public health departments to report all HIV cases. Thirty-five states already have such a system, the majority name-based. UCSF's AIDS Research Institute's Director Tom Coates called this move "a huge mistake" in the *Chronicle* "because it cannot detect when or where the HIV

"How do you eat a rhinoceros? One bite at a time." In other words, create the infrastructure at the same time as you are delivering the medicine – don't wait.

in its implementation between states. In California, the state has generally made up the difference between monies received from the federal government and the actual demand for the program. Other states, notably in the southeast, have failed to make up the difference where demand far exceeds supply and have instituted a lottery system.

Think we know how to treat HIV in America? Think again. It is still not definitively known when to begin treatment. There are followers of the "hit hard, hit early" school, but the pendulum seems to have swung back in the other direction. This is not surprising considering the seriousness of combination therapy's side effects, and the questionable sustainability of years long sustained maximal suppression. Nevertheless, much meaningful data could be mined from existing databases of long-term observational studies.

There are many for whom treatment has failed. The refusal of some pharmaceutical companies to test new antiretroviral medications in this population and still apply for accelerated approval is subverting the intent of that particular reform, fought hard for by

infections have occurred and surely would discourage many people from being tested or treated". With the CDC system, it would be virtually impossible to approach accuracy due to anonymous HIV testing sites and home testing kits whose use can only be expected to climb in the face of reportability.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that 40,000 new infections occur annually in the U.S., where condoms are relatively available, as is information on safer sex. People for whatever reason seem reluctant to internalize that information. Despite rhetoric about preventing a second HIV epidemic, the first one hasn't ended yet. The rising incidence of multi-drug resistant virus in newly acquired infections points to the necessity of targeting HIV-positive people in prevention campaigns without being accusatory.

As the millennium draws to a close, one can only be awed by the enormity of the pandemic. This should not, however, preclude one from getting involved. The AIDS crisis will unfortunately continue to wreak an incredible toll in human suffering, however insulated we may be here in America. ACT UP. Fight back. Fight AIDS. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Carla Abbotts

Carla Abbotts, a tireless feminist and activist, died in San Francisco on December 9, 1999 at the age of 40.

Her legal challenge to a clinic that used the promise of medical services including abortions to lure women in, and then forced them to view anti-abortion propaganda, helped ensure that such manipulative tactics are no longer used to victimize vulnerable women. She later collaborated with Dori Seda on a Last Gasp publication about that experience.

In addition, Carla's testimony before Congress and remarks to numerous young people at schools regarding her experience as a woman with HIV were notable for their honesty and clarity before the effects of the disease on women were widely understood or talked about.

Her fighting spirit, humor and courage in the face of adversity gave inspiration to more people than she ever

imagined.

Carla is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Abbotts, and brother Kraft Abbotts, all of Ewing, New Jersey, and several aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as many loving friends.

Contributions in Carla's name may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or Casa de Las Madras.

Hank Alex Black
1971 — 1999

He became a featured dancer at the then

For those who returned the love he gave, Hank Alex Black had no equal.

The Bay Area BART station provided escape from Castro Valley and a family that inflicted deep, permanent, emotional wounds.

newly opened Boy Club. He made the short list for MTV's "Real World." For several years, he recruited volunteers for San Francisco's Pride Parade.

He survived many legally precarious moments. One time, Secret Service agents guarding Hillary Rodham Clinton confronted him backstage at the Palace of Fine Arts. Incredibly, they told him to move a chair onstage and reseal the First Lady. He did. She said thanks.

Two months ago, down from 160 to 70 pounds, he met Sharon Stone and her husband, Phil Bronstein. He smiled, telling the superstar he planned to steal her husband. And he meant it!

Rick Green, Patrick Conlan, Allen White, his aunt Stacy Otto and the staff of Leland House became family during his final days. Hank Alex Black, born February 26, 1971, died December 11, 1999. He was only 28.

A gathering he requested, called "Ding, Dong, the Bitch is Dead," is planned. Call (415) 392-7412 for details.

William Joseph Hill, Jr.
1953 — 1999

Bill Hill. That's how we knew him. The guy with the rhyming name.

He was gentle. He was angry. But he was, most of all, the most loyal friend anyone could hope to have.

His was a joyful spirit, a gift which gave him the courage to go on in spite of tremendous suffering. He was never a victim of his illness and maintained his razor sharp wit till the very end. How inspiring he was.

He loved to travel, so, as a flight attendant for United Airlines, was given the opportunity to journey to all parts of the world. His favorite city was Paris. His love of the planet extended to serving in the Peace Corps in Africa and Afghanistan.

Bill loved flowers. He loved the ocean and the sun. He loved every aspect of the arts. He loved souvenirs. He

loved to save money. He loved to read. He loved baseball. He loved Mexican food, Thai food, and any food that was hot and spicy. He was a junk food junkie.

He loved his friends. He loved his family. He loved romance and most definitely loved Charlie. He even loved the carrot cake at Just Desserts.

In short, Bill loved life. And life loved him.

Douglas Kibble George



Douglas was a man of great diversity. He was well educated, wise, and creative. He was a singer, a writer, an artist, a producer, and a businessman. In addition to his major achievements in the enter-

tainment field, Douglas was a minister who counseled people in the music-entertainment field. As a community activist, he was director of the Southeast Cultural Community Center in San Francisco, and made history as producer of a landmark show at Candlestick Park.

During that time Doug joined forces with disco diva Martha Wash. Through this union, Ms. Wash produced a string of #1 Billboard Dance Chart hits, was heard in several movie soundtracks, television and radio jingles, and recorded two hit solo albums. Together they toured around the world and shared a lifetime of mountain-top and valley experiences, always depending on God and leaning on one another.

Shortly after 10 p.m. on Saturday, November 13, Douglas Kibble George was called from his labors to eternal rest.

Angel-man, you've done all you can... You can't do anymore.

In Love and Light, from your family and friends, staff and band members and every life you've touched along the way — from your lifetime and eternal companion — Martha.

Retired SF Judge Dorothy von Beroldingen dies

by Cynthia Laird

Retired San Francisco Superior Court Judge Dorothy von Beroldingen died Sunday, December 19, at Saint Francis Hospital of complications resulting from a severe hip fracture she sustained in her apartment on November 15. She was 84.

Following surgery to repair the injury, von Beroldingen remained in critical condition for more than five weeks, battling pneumonia, multiple fractures, and a bleeding ulcer.

One of the most accomplished women in city history, and a long-time friend of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, von Beroldingen fought for more than six decades for equal rights and the advancement of women — both in private industry and public service. In her capacities as an advertising executive, legal scholar, private attorney, city commissioner, city supervisor, and as the city's senior trial court judge, she achieved a long list of significant "firsts" for women.

Earlier this year, von Beroldingen announced her retirement from the bench after 22 years of consecutive judicial service to recover from spinal fractures, the result of osteoporosis, which had been held in check with medications and exercise since 1996. The disease resurfaced with unexpected severity after she began her last term in office.

Appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Court in 1977 by then-Governor Jerry Brown, von Beroldingen ran unopposed three times to retain her seat before winning a tough re-election battle for a fourth term in June 1998. Due to statewide court consolidation, she and her municipal court colleagues were elevated to the superior court at the end of 1998.

Her decision to run for re-election last year was made after consultation with leading San Fran-



Judge Dorothy von Beroldingen

cisco jurists, her family, and her physician. All agreed that she was up to the rigors of a contested campaign and another term on the bench. The judge impressed many in San Francisco's political community with the vigor and energy she displayed on the campaign trail — and continued to impress the legal community with her sharp wit and extensive legal knowledge.

She received numerous awards and commendations for her work on the bench, including being named 1995 Municipal Judge of the Year by the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and the Queen's Bench Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994. She regularly received high ratings from the San Francisco Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Reports.

From 1966 to 1977, von Beroldingen served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors — only the third woman ever to serve as a board member. Re-elected twice, she was the first woman to chair the board's powerful Finance and Budget Committee and created the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, an agency that fights gender discrimination in the

workplace. She was also the first woman appointed to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transit District's board of directors.

In the early 1970s, von Beroldingen became the city's first elected official to envision and actively champion a bold concept for using underdeveloped land in the South of Market area to stimulate the local economy, create affordable housing, and increase jobs. Her concept evolved in later years to become the massive Mission Bay project.

Prior to her tenure as a supervisor, von Beroldingen was the first woman appointed to the San Francisco Civil Service Commission, where she successfully halted a long-standing policy of discrimination in hiring and promoting minorities and members of the gay community to civil service positions.

As a charter member and the first executive vice president of the San Francisco Economic Opportunity Council in the early 1960s, she provided legal guidance and secured federal funding that launched the city's Head Start program and the Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation.

Von Beroldingen maintained a successful legal practice in the city before embarking on her judicial career. She also made an early mark in advertising and sales promotion, before pursuing her legal education at night and working as a law clerk during the day. She attended the University of San Francisco School of Law and San Francisco Law School, graduating cum laude in 1954.

Judge von Beroldingen is survived by one son, Paul von Beroldingen, 55, a San Francisco public relations consultant.

Divorced since 1947, her ex-husband, Linton von Beroldingen, was a former managing editor of the *San Francisco Examiner*. Now 91, he is retired and lives in Oregon.

A memorial service is pending. ▼

Gay men smoke more, study says

by Terry Beswick

Just in time for that special time of year reserved for making those pesky resolutions, public health-minded researchers at the University of California at San Francisco have announced scientific proof that a lot of gay men smoke too much.

According to a report from the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies published in the December issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, 48 percent of 2,600 men who have sex with men recruited in 1992 in Portland, Oregon and Tucson, Arizona smoked tobacco cigarettes.

The researchers did not collect

data directly from heterosexual men in their study, instead comparing the 48 percent smoking rate for homosexual men with epidemiological data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing that, in the overall male population in the U.S. — which includes men of all sexual orientations — 27 percent smoked. ▼

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Rollover

by Jim Provenzano

"Let the spilled blood which angels gathered, Christ's blood be understood: It is shared and infected blood."

— Tony Kushner, from "A Prayer," from *Gay Men at the Millennium*, edited by Michael Lowenthal

They called them YCA. Young Christian Athletes.

But we called them Yuckies, we being those who weren't, for one reason or another, the chosen. We chose band, or theater, or speech team, or Latin Club.

Looking back, I found that, of course, as many others have, those with the fiercest need to "share their faith" were those with the deepest fears to hide.

I even took pictures of a few of them at games.

I guess if I'd stayed in a rural setting, and been like them, I too would have entered into good Christian marriages, bred good Christian children, been caught at a rest stop, divorced, or died of AIDS as some did.

I wish I still had the negatives. See Scott Heim's "I Am Going To Eat You" in the latest *Flesh and the Word* anthology. It pretty much shows what it was like to have the most handsome jocks hitting on you—but only for pictures.

The jocks were varied, the Christian jocks had a purpose. They held the rope that kept the halftime crowds from trodding onto the glassy wooden court at basketball games.

They were for the most part nice guys and gals, I suppose. I often got close enough to most of them to find out, since my sister was a babe the guys wanted to date.

There was one Jewish jock, and he took a lot of flack, most of which was deflected from the suspected homos.

But it was the distance of superiority that maintained that rift, a stance of presumed nobility amid the Yuckies.

Every high school class has the patterns of a society, a microcosm, the strict regulated order of who will receive the power (homecoming court) who will provide entertainment (the band) and who will watch, or live other lives not needing glorification, but just filling the bleachers.

My mom recently e-mailed me, mentioning that another one of my high school acquaintances came out as a lesbian. It's great to hear, although when they ask her why I don't show up at the reunions, I can only think, "Haven't they seen *Carrie*?"

Don't they know what the presence of an out gay man can do to a room full of heterosexuals? I wouldn't be having conversations, I'd be the conversations. I would have to put myself in a glass case and charge admission for showings.

I'm lucky. I have a support system, and some folks who know me, and thereby know someone gay, and hopefully hold their bile when someone starts getting nasty and full o' God.

But some don't, and guess who they go after first?

"The wars of the future will be 'niche wars' or what the military call 'low-intensity conflicts' (LIC). This type of conflict implies limitations in length, in geography, in weaponry and hopefully a low level of violence."

— A.C. Ross, *Dead Again*

Questions to ask yourself as next year rolls around and your hand has a few difficulties dating checks, postcards, or what have you:

If sports is a sublimation of war, then what is war?

Have you prepared any post-millennial entertainments that do not require electricity?

What if all those check-out stand *Weekly World News* predictions don't come true?

What if they do?

Will people who live in trailer parks rule?

What will happen when all those holy rollers wanting it to happen get really disappointed,



Sign of the Times: the glory and the rapture?

and have no use for all that ammo?

Won't they be embarrassed when their bomb shelters prove useless?

Is Rupert Murdoch Satan, or just his publicist?

How many science fiction books are now going to seem really corny?

How many have already come true?

If only people who adore Pat Robertson will go to heaven, do you even want to visit?

Why are all those cookies on our computers set to quit on December 31 at precisely 7:30 p.m.?

Is there something they know that we don't?

If heaven is a little bit like San Francisco, can anyone afford an apartment?

If you could leave anything in the 20th century, and know that it would stay there, what would it be? Tae Bo? Leg warmers? Spam? Cubicles? Websites that claim to "empower" your community?

Who can proudly call themselves the Class of '00 without feeling a little spooky?

What if all those Pokémons have time-release Sarin gas?

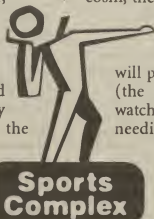
Can we put a tax on the use of the word "millennium," and double-charge anyone who spells it wrong?

Has anyone figured out what to call this decade yet?

The OOH Decade?

The Aberzombie Era?

Millenny-Ohs? ▼



Youth shelter

◀ page 3

youth, and lease their under-utilized Golden Gate church to the project for \$1,000 a month.

This week, Supervisor Tom Ammann introduced legislation at the Board of Supervisors meeting to secure the requested funding for the MCC/Ark of Refuge shelter project. The proposal has been referred to the board's Finance Committee and, at best, is expected to take several weeks to make its way through the required hearings and the city bureaucracy, bringing the possible opening of the shelter well into the winter months.

Two queer youth shelter controversies in the Castro this year

bore striking resemblances to the Noe Valley situation in both content and tone. Largely due to neighbors' fears that youth shelters would serve as magnets for crime, vagrancy, prostitution, and drugs, one of those shelters was forced to close, and the other never got off the ground because the building owner changed his mind, leading to the current soul-searching in Noe Valley.

Given this history, and other examples of city neighborhoods blocking shelters in their backyards by exerting pressure on City Hall, it is an open question whether a few of the estimated 2,000 LGBT youth who are homeless in the city on an average night will have a slightly better chance of finding a roof and a meal this winter.

The church-cum-shelter's neighbors and other meeting attendees expressed widely varying opinions at the forum, from both sides of the spectrum, but in the end, the fate of the shelter will be decided by the leadership at City Hall.

For their part, the Lesbian Avengers are optimistic about the Noe Valley shelter, and are circulating a petition in the neighborhood in an effort to develop greater support for it.

"I think we're starting to reach the silent majority in the neighborhood who support the shelter but who haven't really spoken up yet," commented Mills. ▼

Call the Lesbian Avengers at (415) 820-3200, ext. 235.

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ACT UP/SF
Discussion groups first and third Sundays of every month from 3-5pm. Contact: 864-6666.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group
Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV +. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 864-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephen Queltet, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove
Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association
Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2-3:30pm. UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aquino, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also groups in Spanish, Chinese, 800-660-1993).

ARIS
AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather
Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail: lchoi415@aol.com.

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV
Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places
Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bay Positives
Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle
Nonprofit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Breast Cancer Action
Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Brown Boys
Drop in group for gay/bi Latino men under 25, addressing HIV and other survival issues. Meets every Mon. at 6:30pm. PCVP, 2973 16th St. 864-7278.

Catholic Charities
Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project
(A Coping Skills Program). UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men
Meets Weds., 6-7:30pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hlman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence
Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Gay and lesbian Jewish synagogue. Services every Friday at 8:15pm. 290 Dolores Street at 16th Street. 861-6932.

Connections
Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 336-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services
An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Counseling Services for Drinking
Groups for gay men who are court- or DMV-mandated to attend a multiple offender program. Chemical Awareness & Treatment Services: 241-1187.

Crystal Meth Anonymous
Meetings every Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market; Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center
Free classes for HIV+ people in need of point (Tues., Wed., exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.), Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center
At UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dimensions
Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBTQQ youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3550 17th Street, at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

Dolores Street Comm. Services
Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program
Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton, Call Hector, 565-1909.

Eden I & R
Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 527-2600.

Elipse-Peninsula AIDS Services
Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center
Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.

FABRIC
A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Full Circle Beyond Recovery
It used to be that so much of what you did, thought, and felt was related to the substance or behavior. Who are you now that you don't use? This group is designed for people active in their recovery process, not necessarily using 12 steps. Free intake, low fees. Call 255-0100.

Full Circle Positive Professionals Group
This professionally facilitated group will create a safe space for HIV+ healing and healthcare professionals to get support to deal with the challenges they face, with their clients and for themselves. Free intake, low fees. Call 255-0100.

Full Circle Positive Support Group
Coping with HIV/AIDS is an ongoing challenge. Come and share support with others experiencing the same issues. Free intake, low fees. Call 255-0100.

Galemas
Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 747-9880.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC, Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay Greeks
Support/social group for Greek-American gays and lesbians. Meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month. Call 551-1688 for location and time.

Gay Young Spirit
A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club
A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project
Free, confidential Orasure HIV antibody testing, Med. 12, 3-4pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2723.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox
Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling, and HIV education. Free. Drop in Monday-Friday 11 am to 6 pm at 529 Clayton or Call Hector, 565-1908.

Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic
Confidential, free, client-centered HIV testing, provided conveniently in the evenings at an accessible location. Test results are not kept on file. 487-5632.

Healing Alternatives Foundation
Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services
For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing
And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline
Peer support for persons afflicted with Hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network
Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax free action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program
Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed of injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf
Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1385 Market St.

HIVCare
Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sheri Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups
Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group
Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free. SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Negative Gay Men's Support Group
In the South Bay, meets second and fourth Wed. of each month, 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. Info: Pat Duffy, (408) 293-2747.

HIV Negative Support Group
For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Health Project; free drop-in, time-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group
Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-In Group
Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 862-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group
18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sitting Group
Meditation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends. Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am). Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 862-2507.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st, Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions
Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info, call 824-3269.

Immune Enhancement Project
Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Lesbians with Cancer
12-week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Línea de Ambiente
Information, referral and emotional support for

gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center
Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School
Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Maitri Residential Care
For people disabled by HIV requiring medical support. Call for info or to volunteer. 863-8508.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics
STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality
Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 863-0240.

Medical Cannabis Delivery System
Serves homebound and ambulatory patients in SF and the East Bay. Fax, 255-7489. 2261 Market, #478, SF 94114. 436-9648.

Meditation Sessions
For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others. Free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault
Operates sexual assault hotline for men. Mon.-Fri., 10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Mental Health - Team II Clinic
Provides psychotherapy, case management, medications. Specializes in services to the gay and lesbian community. Medical, Medicare, third party insurance accepted. Sliding scale. Part of SF Dept. of Public Health. 298 Monterey Blvd., near Glen Park BART station. Call Stan at 753-6760 for information.

Molested Boys:
"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audio tape. Call 552-4270.

Most Holy Redeemer
AIDS support group. Seeking volunteers to provide in-home practical and emotional support to PWAs. For information and application, call 863-1581.

Mothers Organizing Mothers
Working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-4639 or 221-6653 for information.

Movement and Voice
Group for HIV+ Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 765-5900.

MWM
A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-0946.

Native American AIDS Project
Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

New Leaf
Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

OUTline
Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center
Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Pacific Center Walnut Creek
Support groups for queer and questioning people, counseling referrals and information. (510) 939-7711.

Paradigm
Models for enhancing life near death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

Planetree Health Resource Center
Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical clip listings and health bookstore. Also support groups, health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

The Positive Center
Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin Co. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists
Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Resource
Provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation meeting call 928-1448.

Project HOPE
Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Prostate Cancer Resource
Provides the latest treatment information, education, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: pc-res@inter.net.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida
Counseling and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-

7278.
Psychic Horizons
Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWA Long-Term Survivors
Support group for men: small, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Q Action
Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Qi Gong for Health
\$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center
Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV, Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Question HIV
Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women
Business mgs. 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Rafiki Services Project
Enhancing quality of life for African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

re plen ish
Offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Richard M. Cohen Residence
SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call 282-6209).

Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF
Offers low fee counseling/psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Support/therapy groups for family/loved ones of PWAs in English, Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese. 668-5955.

Sadhana Brothers
Gay/bi men's Hindu/Yogic fellowship, meets monthly for chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

San Mateo County AIDS Program
Provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer resources coordinator: (650) 573-2488. Information: (650) 573-2588.

SCA
Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets Mon. at 7:15pm & Fri. at 6pm, 1874 Market. 1-800-977-HEAL.

Senior Central
Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors. Free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Shanti
Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

Shanti's El Programa Latino
Provides emotional and peer counseling and practical support to Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. For more information, call 674-4700.

Southern Alameda HIV Services
Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward. (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups
Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. 810w Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center
Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Tambayan
Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transgressors in Transition
Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions
Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transcendental Meditation Center
Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgender Support Group
Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month. 6:30pm. Call Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project
Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center SF
Seeks volunteers to join its AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program. Volunteers visit patients in hospital and help in simple care tasks. Volunteers for AIDS Home Care and Phone Buddy Program are also needed. Contact Ronald Hunt, AIDS Volunteer Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement St., 750-2144.

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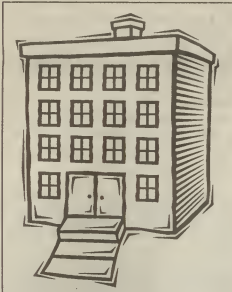
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The mayor's Criminal Justice Council, on behalf of the Sheriff, Police, Public Defender, District Attorney, Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments, is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from evaluations firms and grant writing / program planning firms or individuals to form two of "as needed" contractors. Eligible for-profit, non-profit, educational, and individual entities who have experience in grant writing, program planning, and evaluating criminal justice programs are encouraged to apply. Contracts will be effective July 1, 2000. RFQs will be provided in both hard copy format and on disk. RFQs will be available January 5, 2000 at:

Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (MCJC)
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 496
San Francisco, CA 94102

RFQ applications will be due by Friday, February 11, 2000 by 5 PM.
For more information call MCJC at (415) 554-6260

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236012

The following person(s) are doing business as, Felt, 3338 23rd Street, San Francisco, CA, 94110. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Yuko Nishida and Oliver Darius Wolfson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/02/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/02/99. DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236146

The following person(s) are doing business as, Semicol Communications, 77 Iris Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Donna L. Reynolds. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/05/99. DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236670

The following person(s) are doing business as, MedChannel, 650 Townsend Street, San Francisco, CA, 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard Sommer, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/26/99. The statement was filed with the

County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/99. DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236603

The following person(s) are doing business as, Baldoria Trattoria Restaurant, 2164 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA, 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Alessandro Iacobelli, Vice President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/29/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/30/99. DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30 1999

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: 0221645-00

The following person(s) Alessandro Iacobelli have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Baraonda. Located at: 2164 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 3/26/98. This business was conducted by a corporation signed: Alessandro Iacobelli. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on date indicated by file stamp above. November 30, 1999. DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30 1999

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: 195422

The following person(s) James R. Mariner have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Mariner & Company. Located at: 2500 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 5/5/95. This business was conducted by a sole proprietorship James R. Mariner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on date indicated by file stamp above. December 01, 1999. DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30 1999

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO: 308276

In the Matter of the Application of Jeffrey William Yunt For Change of Name. The application of Jeffrey William Yunt for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Jeffrey William Yunt has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jeffrey William Skyles Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4/206 on the 10th day of January, 2000, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. DEC. 9, 16, JAN 6, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236490

The following person(s) are doing business as, Eliza's Restaurant Inc. 2877 California Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Tran Thuy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/23/99. DEC. 16, 23, 30, JAN. 6, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236566

The following person(s) are doing business as, REA Cleaning Service, 1275 25th Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Raul B. Adonay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/29/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/29/99. DEC. 16, 23, 30, JAN. 6, 2000

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE CASE NUMBER: 272978

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or es-

LEGAL NOTICES

tate, or both, of William Raymond Thorne, aka William R. Thorne, aka William Thorne. A petition for probate has been filed by John Birmingham in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that John Birmingham be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's wills and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The wills and codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on: 1/3/2000. Time: 9:00am Dept.: Probate, Room 204. Address of the court is: Superior Court Of California, County of San Francisco, 400 McAllister, San Francisco, CA, 94102-4512. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioners name and address: John Birmingham, 1519 Oak Street, #1, San Francisco, CA, 94117. DEC. 16, 23, 30 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236953

The following person(s) are doing business as, Summer Tompkins Walker Design, 2749 Pierce Street, San Francisco, CA, 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Summer Tompkins Walker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/16/99. DEC. 23, 30, JAN. 6, 13, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236938

The following person(s) are doing business as, Awesome Productions, 642 Alvarado Street suite #111, San Francisco, CA, 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gordon L. Elkins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/15/99. DEC. 23, 30, JAN. 6, 13, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 236919

The following person(s) are doing business as, Su Yolu, 1439 44th Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elizabeth Hewitt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/14/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/14/99. DEC. 23, 30, JAN. 6, 13, 2000



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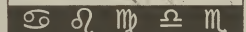
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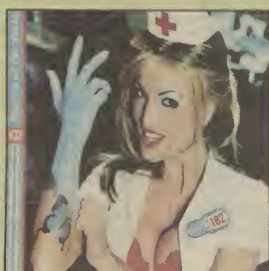
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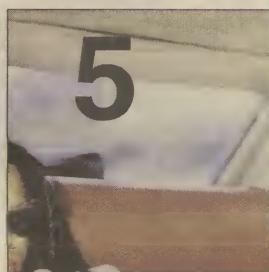
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 51 • 23 December 1999

THE TALENTED MR. MINGHELLA

HOMOEROTIC *RIPLEY*
SCORES A BULLS-EYE

by Robert Julian

Matt Damon in *The
Talented Mr. Ripley*

It's difficult to film the story of a sociopath without descending into melodrama or alienating the viewer. But in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, writer/director Anthony Minghella succeeds on every level, turning the story of Tom Ripley into a lush, romantic, entrancing fable that makes two-and-a-half hours of screen time seem like 20 minutes. With this follow-up to *The English Patient*, Minghella establishes that he is no flash in anyone's pan. *The Talented Mr. Ripley* is smart, stylish, engaging and—in places—a work of genius. Tom Ripley (Matt Damon) is the perpetual outsider. He's not rich enough, handsome enough, or smart enough to move in the circles of Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), a Princeton graduate and American expatriate living in Italy on a generous allowance from his wealthy father. But when Tom borrows a sportcoat and fills in as pianist for a Manhattan society party, he is mistaken for a Princeton graduate by Dickie's father. With his good

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OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman
and Pat Expat

The new Anthony Minghella film *The Talented Mr. Ripley* may be a lush showcase for its glamorous young stars Matt Damon, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Cate Blanchett, but it downplays the homoerotic undertones of its source novel of the same name, by creepy but clever lesbian author Patricia Highsmith (who published one lesbian novel, *The Price of Salt*, under a pseudonym, "Claire Morgan"). This week's cover story makes clear the film's underlying homoeroticism; but permit us to demonstrate just how much of a queer the elegant, homicidal Tom Ripley really is, to an extent you don't suspect from the film.



Matt Damon as Tom Ripley

Highsmith herself once admitted in an interview that Ripley is "a little bit homosexual... not that he's ever done anything about that." In a 1960 film also based on the Ripley novel, director René Clement's superior *Purple Noon*, the impossibly gorgeous Alain Delon as Ripley is clearly navigating a fetish zone in a scene where he tries on his victim Dickie Greenleaf's tailored clothes. In the novel, after Dickie finds him playing dress-up in his closet (kinky!), he finds it necessary to tell Tom bluntly, "I'm not queer. I don't know if you have the idea that I am or not." Dickie's girl Marge certainly thinks Tom is queer: "It's just the way you act," she tells him.

Back in New York, we learn, Tom had hung with a queer crowd and was fond of saying, "I can't make up my mind whether I like men or women, so I'm thinking of giving them both up." Please, girl.

Somehow, most of this subtext is lost in the new film. Clearly, Minghella made his own choices as director. But *Out There* missed



Lorna Luft and Tom Ammiano on the stage of the Castro Theatre

the scene from the book when Tom is captivated by a group of hunky acrobats performing on the beach: "They must be professionals. They're all in the same yellow G-strings," he says, excited. Highsmith writes, "Tom watched with interest as a human pyramid began building, feet braced on bulging thighs, hands gripping forearms. He could hear their 'Allezz!' and their 'Un-deux!'"

"Look! Tom said. 'There goes the top!' He stood still to watch the smallest one, a boy of about 17, as he was boosted to the shoulders of the centre man in the three top men. ... 'Bravo!' Tom shouted. The boy smiled at Tom before he leapt down, lithe as a tiger."

Do we need to spell this out? Ripley is clearly not much interested in girls. Again from the book: "What disgusted him was the big bulge of her [Marge's] behind in the peasant skirt below Dickie's arm that circled her waist."

But as for the boys... In one of the four Ripley sequels, *The Boy Who Followed Ripley*, Tom takes a last infatuated with him along on a trip to Cold War-era Berlin. They go to a gay bar for a few rounds, and Tom is pleased by the fact that the bar's denizens are insanely jealous that he has a pretty 16-year-old boy in tow. We just can't see Damon playing this scene in a sequel. As queer Highsmith fans, we think it's time to Reclaim Ripley from the heterosexual hit-makers.

By the way, the soundtrack to the film, out on Sony Classical, is a moody delight. We could have lived without Matt Damon singing "My Funny Valentine" in

his thin falsetto (pretty, but can't type), but the score, composed by Gabriel Yared, is just our cup of tea. Too, there's pope-ripper Sinéad O'Connor singing the pseudo-liturgical "Lullaby for Cain," numbers by jazz greats Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, and all manner of bebop tracks laid down by the Guy Barker International Quintet. Put it on for a spin in your CD player and practice forging the signature of your significant other.

Judy: the epilogue

At the Judy Garland Xmas extravaganza at the Castro Theatre last weekend, famous daughter Lorna Luft was escorted down the aisle to the stage by the true Mayor of Emerald City, Tom Ammiano. Lorna said her mother was not a tragic figure, but someone who was well-loved in her life. Luft also said the legend that Judy's mother had to push her on stage is untrue: Judy loved show biz to death.

Out There overheard Lorna gushing about her fabulous dinner at Stars: "You know, it's that marvelous chef Jeremiah Tower." Uh no, dear, Tower sold his restaurant and moved on. But at least we know she's eating better than Liza these days. ▼



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She's not Elaine

But comic Carol Leifer is a Friend of Jerry

by Richard Dodds

Carol Leifer, the stand-up comic, doesn't have much time anymore for stand-up. She's too busy in her new role as a writer and producer of sitcoms, a new career that began with a three-year stint with Seinfeld. But she's got some new jokes she's itching to tell, so she eagerly accepted an invitation to return to the annual *Evening of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy*.

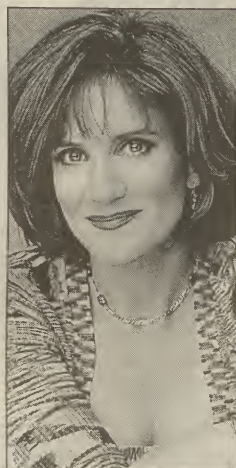
Leifer made her first *Kung Pao* appearance in 1994, and she said she thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "Being Jewish, Christmas-time has been such a depressing kind of holiday," she said, "feeling like our noses are pressed up against the proverbial window. So it's so much fun to be in roomful of Jews in a Chinese restaurant on a religious holiday hearing some great comedy."

Kung Pao was founded seven years ago by San Francisco comic Lisa Geduldig, who wanted a fun activity for Jews while much of the world stopped for Christmas. This year's event features a new component, a performance at the Herbst Theatre on Dec. 26 in addition to the traditional dinner and cocktails shows at the New Asia Restaurant on Dec. 24 and 25.

Geduldig, as emcee, always brings a lesbian presence to the proceedings, and she usually schedules at least one other queer performer. This year it's fellow San Franciscan Dan Rothenberg.

"I've found over the years I do have a lot of gay men fans," Leifer said. She also has a lot of gay men friends.

"I do a joke about how the extent of my social life is hanging out with gay men, and I mean, why not? They're smart. They're sensitive, and if they didn't find the thought of having sex with me to be totally repulsive, they'd be perfect."



Carol Leifer

Beard date

For *Seinfeld*, Leifer wrote a memorable episode titled "The Beard," in which Elaine pretends to be a closeted gay man's girlfriend, and then sets out to convert him to heterosexuality. It was inspired — partly — by Leifer's own experiences.

"I have a really good gay male friend who asked me to go to the Hollywood Bowl with his boss and his wife," she said. "He works in banking, and he's not out because of this uptight financial world. It was so funny to me, because these friends of ours who are very queeny and out there sat right next to us, and it was like, hey guys, not now. I just thought that would be a really great idea for an episode."

But, unlike Elaine, Leifer didn't try to get her friend to change teams. "I know that would be the most hopeless of causes," she said.

"I got a lot of mail about that episode," she continued. "Because

Elaine slept with the gay character, people wrote in, 'Did they use a condom?' 'Did they have safe sex?' Well, there's a point where it can get ridiculous. I'm not just going to put a line in the script like, 'Oh, we did have safe sex.' I couldn't believe that people actually sent letters about that."

Perhaps the most famous of Leifer's *Seinfeld* scripts was "The Rye," in which Jerry nearly mugs an old woman to secure a bakery's last loaf of marble rye. But the real eye-opener was a subplot about Elaine's new boyfriend, a sax player, who is missing an important (to Elaine) move in his sexual repertoire. Bluntly put, she wants him to go down on her, and when he finally does, it's with such abandon that he can't play the saxophone anymore.

"What is absolutely amazing is that from start to finish I had no interference about the story line," she said. "The only thing was when I pitched it to [series co-creator] Larry David, he said he'd love to do it if I could get Jerry to sign off on it, because Jerry was always a little squeamish about anything to do with sex. I think because it was a hit show we could get away with it. If we tried that on *It's Like You Know*, I'm sure we would get some interference."

Leifer is an executive producer on *It's Like You Know*, a second-year ABC sitcom now awaiting word on its future. In the meantime, she's writing a sitcom pilot for DreamWorks, and if it's picked up, she would also be its executive producer. By design, there is no on-screen role for her in the proposed series.

"*Alright Already* was such a dream for me to do," Leifer said of her short-lived 1998 series on the WB network in which she starred as well as executive produced. "It was such a drag that it got a lot of critical acclaim and that the WB at the last minute yanked it. I'm still kind of in a healing mode. I'm not ready to get back on the horse yet."

The Long Island native worked her way up along the usual route for comics, starting in comedy clubs and moving to guest spots on TV talk shows. Along the way she dated Jerry Seinfeld, Paul Reiser, and was married to comic Ritch Shynder. "Right now I'm dating a couple different people," she said.

Because she dated Seinfeld and remained friends with the performer, a situation mirrored in the relationship between Seinfeld's TV character and Elaine, it's widely believed that Leifer was the inspiration for Elaine, played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus. She has said the misconception has been "the bane of my existence."

"It's become a piece of folklore," Leifer said, "and I've given up trying to fight it. If they're always going to say that, then why not? Yes, I'm in the inspiration for Elaine. It's still not true, but I give up." ▼

Carol Leifer will perform with Lisa Geduldig, Betsy Salkind, and Dan Rothenberg at *An Evening of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy* at 6 (dinner show) and 9:30 p.m. (cocktail show) Dec. 24 and 25 at the New Asia Restaurant, and at 7 p.m. Dec. 26 at the Herbst Theatre. Tickets range from \$25 to \$45. Call 522-3737.

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'A Karen Carpenter Christmas' at the Marsh

by Richard Dodds

Karen Carpenter seemed to be the Tricia Nixon of music. And because of that, it was easy to recoil from her aggressively white-bread sound as establishment culture was beginning to shatter. That she should die from a disease of self-loathing has given her legacy an edge that she never had when she was alive, and for reasons too dark to analyze here, her anorexia-related death has cranked up her camp value.

A *Karen Carpenter Christmas*, now in its sixth year, obviously gets some of its kick from this legacy, but it's the audience more than the script that provides the subtext. For its part, the show is generally content to poke fun at the wholesome, suburban image that Karen and Richard Carpenter embodied, as well as the gaudy era in which they thrived.

Writer-director Tom Ross has set the 90-minute production in the rec room of the Carpenters' childhood home in Downey, Calif., where a poster of Mark Spitz decorates the wall and Karen's starter drum kit takes center stage. Karen and Richard, stuck forever *Brady Bunch*-like in the '70s, are back home to tape their first holiday special.

Because planning for the special began in July, Karen tells us, she just couldn't muster the Christmas spirit until she's visited by Alvin (of Chipmunks fame), who represents the Spirit of Christmas Specials Past. Peggy Lee, identified as "depressed girl singer from an earli-

er era," arrives as the Spirit of Christmas Specials Present. Prophetically, there is no Spirit of Christmas Specials Future, but this doesn't stop perky Karen from reclaiming her spirit in time to welcome her very special guests Carol Channing and Tom Jones.

Most of the humor is fun in a silly sort of way, though a few gags do manage to touch wit. Morey Goldstein, the show's musical director, plays Richard Carpenter as a grinning fool with latent homosexual tendencies. Joshua Raoul Brody, on keyboards, plays the sad sack Bob who has a crush on Karen. And the parody is high in Meg Mackay's delicious turns as a boozing Peggy Lee and a pixilated Carol Channing and in Stefanos X's pelvic examination of Tom Jones.

But when Katie Guthorn, convincingly at sea in the spoken segments, takes to the microphone as Karen Carpenter, it's for real. For those with fond memories of "Close to You," "Top of the World," and other Carpenter hits, Guthorn's authentic impersonations should be like honey. And even if you were one of those who switched radio stations as soon as you heard the words "why do birds suddenly appear," you may find yourself at least briefly seduced by Guthorn's musical evocations of the late, great Miss Karen. ▼

A *Karen Carpenter Christmas* will run at the Marsh through Dec. 28. Tickets are \$17. Call 826-5750.



Katie Guthorn, Morey Goldstein, and Joshua Raoul Brody in *A Karen Carpenter Christmas*

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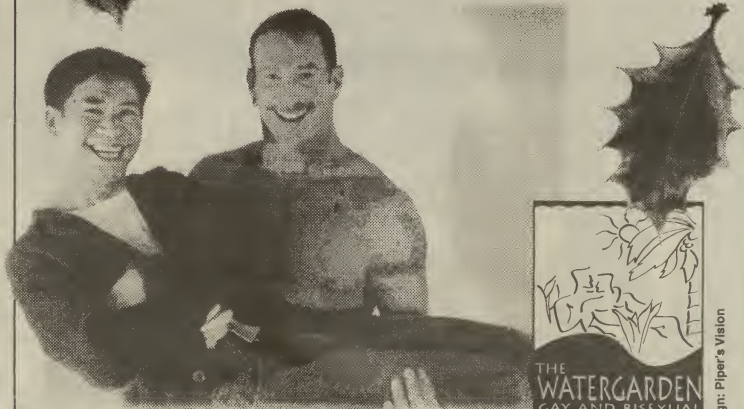
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A streetcar named Almodóvar

With 'All About My Mother,' he's arrived

by Will Shank

There comes a wonderful moment in a film director's career when all of his previous efforts gel into the masterpiece that he has been trying to make all along. For Woody Allen, that revelation came in 1989 with *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, wherein his goofy, slapstick comedies finally found a common thread with his "serious," Bergmanesque, early dramas like *Interiors*. The result was a film full of humor that also held profound, universal truths, and it was sublime.

That moment comes to Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar with *All About My Mother*, which won him the Best Director prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Many fans of the openly gay Almodóvar have been waiting patiently through the '90s for a movie as fulfilling as the delightful *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (1987), or the dark *Matador* (1985), which was one of several films that shaped the career of the young Antonio Banderas. A number of his films of the past decade have come close, like the titillating *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*, and the wonderful first half of *Live Flesh*, but they have fallen short of their mark. *All About My Mother* hits the bulls-eye.

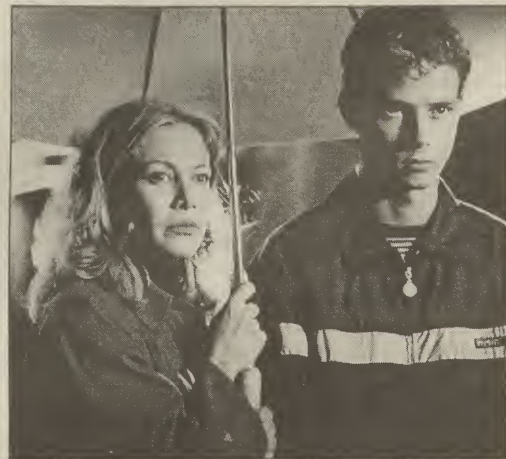
The film begins with a discussion between a hospital worker, Manuela (Argentine actress Cecilia Roth), and her teenage son Esteban (Eloy Azorin) about the Spanish title, *Eva Desnudo*, of *All About Eve*, as they watch the American film together on television in their Madrid home. A perceptive boy and an aspiring writer, Esteban has been kept in the dark

all his life about the identity of his father, and he is working on an essay called, "All About My Mother." The following evening, during his birthday celebration at a local theater, Manuela promises to tell him all about his father. In hot pursuit of the autograph of the star of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Esteban is run over by a car speeding in the rain.

The rest of the film is driven by Manuela's search for the father of her child, an odyssey that takes her back to Barcelona and her roots. Because the father has since become a woman named Lola, Manuela's story takes some surreal turns. In what other movie of recent memory are there not one, but two major characters who are chicks-with-dicks? One of these, Agrado (Antonia San Juan), follows Manuela from a Felliniesque prostitution ring into the world of the theater, where the two of them, through a complex series of twists and turns, are embraced by Huma Rojo (Marisa Paredes), the very actress whose autograph Esteban was pursuing on the night of his death.

Passion play

Manuela's life also becomes entwined with that of a pregnant young nun (Penélope Cruz) and her rigid mother (Rosa María



Cecilia Roth and Eloy Azorín in Pedro Almodóvar's *All About My Mother*

Sardá). If the instant rapport among these various women strains their credibility for an American audience, the unlikely situations probably resonate more for most Spanish viewers, whose passion and impulsiveness may well have led them into such similar alliances.

During the course of the film's 101 minutes, almost everybody gets a chance to be Eve Harrington and have her moment in front of the footlights. Life imitates art imitating life throughout the screenplay, including one scene where the off-stage Stanley Kowalski asks Agradó for a blow job. Gay references abound, beyond the obvious iconic status of Tennessee Williams' *Streetcar* and the Bette Davis classic *Eve*. (Huma, whose name means smoke, notes that her cigarette habit was inspired by watching the great Davis on the Silver Screen.) Manuela's birthday gift to her writer son is a copy of Truman Capote's *Music for Chameleons*.

Besides being riotously funny, touching, and moving, *All About My Mother* looks great, like all Almodóvar films. Inspired visual choices include a view of Esteban's pencil scribbling in his ever-present notebook, viewed from

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THEATRE

Grindhouse follies

Seedy porn palaces and lap-dance halls keep the flame alive

by Gary Morris

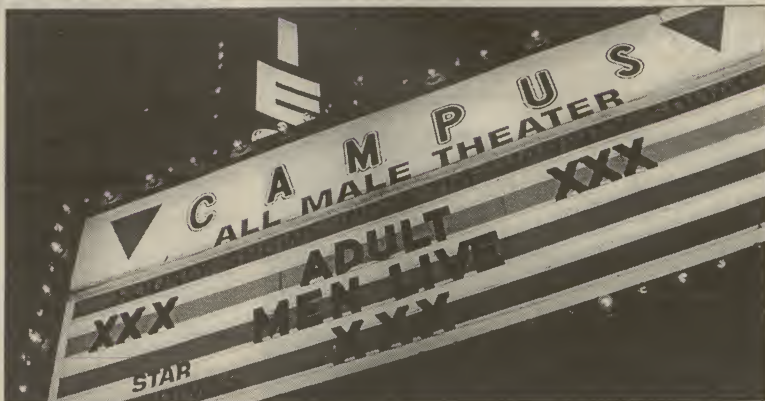
By their grindhouses shall ye know them." — the Bible (loose translation).

Descriptions of the early days of cinema invariably mention the terror audiences felt watching trains rushing at them, or cattle stampeding seemingly off the screen, or even a startling close-up kiss. Viewers were used to seeing plays, skits, pantomimes on stage — not two-dimensional images that looked more real than reality. To soothe these fears, operators of nickelodeons and renovated storefront theatres alternated live performances with film.

This hoary tradition survived in small, secret corners of the culture through the depression, World War II, and into the 1950s and '60s. Sleazy promoters like Kroger Babb would supplement '40s live-birth movies with pamphlets, lectures, and stern "nurses" standing by to revive viewers who

went into shock. By the '50s, second-run theatres in fading downtowns were booking holiday "spook shows," where grade-Z pics like *The Ghost of Dragstrip Hollow* were interrupted by locals in cheesy monster drag, running amok through the theatre to amuse and terrify patrons. One of the last vestiges of the era was the William Castle-style visceral scare — skeletons flying through the theatre, seats juiced up in a bizarre reworking of the electric chair.

These gimmicks lasted into the '60s but not beyond: suburbanization and the counterculture put an end to the foolish fun. Luckily, seedy porn palaces and lap-dance halls took over where Babb and Castle left off. Today, these are about the last public venue for that unique combination of movies and live stage shows. On a recent rainy Thursday, in a pensive mood, I decided to personally investigate a few of these dinosaurs, two gay houses and one straight one, that keep



The Campus All-Male Theatre on Jones Street

the ritual alive and the faithful coming.

Faded stars

The Campus All-Male Theatre on Jones St. (\$15 cover; in and out privileges) might have been an early moviehouse. It has the musty aura of what passes for antiquity in America — black concrete walls on which a few sad white stars are painted, a long narrow auditorium, 80+ seats, and a small stage to accommodate the blue-veined dreamboys who grind their way into the audience's hearts — and wallets. Like most porno houses, this one

shows projected video, not film — a trend that will probably overtake "real" theatres and most films in a few years. No popcorn here, and instead of a balcony there's a basement, with a discreet maze and a tiny room of bleachers called "The Arena" where the secondary lapdancing boys do their — but not your — thing. A couple of bucks stuffed into "Mitch's" sock — all he's wearing — earns a few minutes of his soothing touch for the famished businessman on break. On the screen upstairs, a Kristen Bjorn video is projected. Again, like early cinema, this one's primitive. Simple motives and

gestures; larger-than-life, buffed boys from Brazil. These days, though, the two-dimensional image gets no respect; patrons wander in and out oblivious of the screen, hungry for that third dimension.

The Tearoom Theatre on Eddy St. should by rights be only half as interesting as the Campus; after all, it's half the size and charges half the admission (\$7.50; no in-and-out privileges). In fact, it's twice as weird. No live dancers show up, though they're scheduled, and again no popcorn. The main room is quite small, a mere

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Image Leather

Highlights among the lowbrow

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Can it be the end of the millennium already? It seems like the Dark Ages were just yesterday! So as we look back with nostalgia over the past year (since unlike everyone else we know, we were a serf in a previous life and didn't own a television *last* millennium — or even the last decade), here are our blue feather boa (blue ribbons are just so 4-H Club, don't you think?) awards for the best queer TV of 1999.

First place boa for best queer show goes hands down to NBC's *Will & Grace* — of course, it had no competition in that category (no, *Frasier* still doesn't count, nor does *Monday Night Football*), so it wasn't much of a win. (Anyone whining that *Ellen* should still be on TV will get coal in her or his stocking and a crack of Santa's whip. *W&G* is so successful because it achieves what *Ellen* never did: humor. *Ellen* was to sitcoms what Candace Gingrich's hair is to fashion.) *W&G* isn't just the best queer sitcom on TV, it is arguably



The blue feather boa-winning cast of *Will & Grace* is featured in a television commercial spot for the No on Knight campaign.

the best sitcom on TV. Only *It's Like, You Know...*, *Action* and *Frasier* come close to the snappy, acerbic, non-stop wit. We love this show. We don't care that all the sex is off-screen. We don't care that it's politically incorrect. We don't care that GLAAD doesn't approve. Oh wait — that last isn't true. We do care — it makes us like *W&G* even more.

Tied for first place as best queer couples on TV are Jack and Karen of *W&G* (face it, dears, Karen is far queerer than Will, a Log Cabinette wannabe, we fear) and Simon and Tony on PBS's *EastEnders*. Jack and Karen are so fabulous, so funny, so fresh they make us almost look forward to TV. The more we watch Megan Mullaley's Karen, the more we think she deserves an Emmy. She has the most perfect timing and delivery since Oscar Wilde's last words. (For those who don't know: "Either this wallpaper goes or I do." Then he died.) Karen is more than just a monied fag hag; she has real depth — she's a true character. She and Sean Hayes' Jack play off each other so well their scenes have a seamlessness that in drama would be breath-

taking. Comedy, we find, is terribly underrated. *W&G* deserves its blue boa and Karen and Jack deserve theirs — though no doubt they'd prefer shocking pink.

Simon and Tony, the twentysomething gay couple in the multigenerational and multiethnic ensemble cast of the gritty British soap opera import *EastEnders*, are the antithesis of K&J. Working-class queers in London's East End, they're the most realistic gay couple to ever hit the tube. Queer since schooldays (*not* the playing fields of Eton), Simon has suffered abuse from his violent and homophobic father. Macho Tony denied his gay sexuality for years, until he met Simon through his former girlfriend, Tiffany, Simon's sister.

This couple has kissed on-screen (their first kiss was both sweet and quite sexy) and been seen under the covers together. They've faced a host of real-life problems, from Tony's infidelity (a drunken night with a woman) to the neighborhood's homophobia, to Simon's abusive father trying to move into their flat, to Tiffany's pregnancy with a baby

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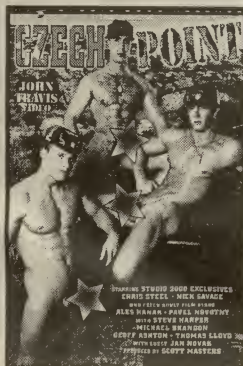
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FILM

The lowdown on sweet Woody

by Brandon Judell

Woody Allen has now directed and written over 30 films. In fact, on one count, his latest and best-reviewed feature in years, *Sweet and Lowdown*, clocks in as number 32. In this affectionate fictional biography of the second-best jazz guitarist in the world, Emmet Ray (Sean Penn), Uma Thurman shows up as Blanche, his bisexual, socialite love interest. Her first screen entrance is on the arm of a tuxedoed short, stocky woman played by the actress Lola Pashalinski, who recently drew rave reviews for her portrayal of Gertrude Stein off-Broadway.

Blanche, as followers of Allen's career can guess, is neither a vil-

lain nor a goddess. She's just your above-average, neurotic user of people, going from one paramour to the next, hoping to drink in some of their idiosyncratic and hopefully antisocial traits.

But wouldn't an openly, nonpsychotic gay hero or heroine be out of place in an Allen comedy? Isn't everyone certifiably mal-adjusted in his psychoanalytical-couch-of-a-world? And shouldn't we be thankful for at least a single full-bodied presence of a bisexual in one of his films, even though we see Blanche almost totally during her heterosexual phase?

Well, it's definitely a step forward from the futuristic *Sleeper* (1973), where, as Vito Russo observed in his *The Celluloid Closet*, "a swishy gay couple [has] a swishy gay robot." Then there's

Meryl Streep as Woody's ex-wife who turns lesbian and saddles up with an irritating lover in the acclaimed *Manhattan* (1979). Russo notes: "*Manhattan* is not a case of, Is it good for the lesbians or bad for the lesbians? Woody Allen has consistently taken a stab at a gay joke or theme. Sometimes, as in *Sleeper*, it is offensive, but sometimes it is charming, as in *Love and Death* (1975), in which he muses aloud, 'I wonder if Socrates and Plato took a house on Crete during the summer.' You can like or dislike the lesbian characters in *Manhattan*, and you can even argue that Allen is neurotic in his reaction to them, but it is an argument you would win quickly. Allen is neurotic for a living, and *Manhattan* is a great film."

Invisible men

But most of the criticism that comes Allen's way is not for his depictions of gays or blacks or other minorities, but for their lack of appearances in his films. So that's why I recently asked Mr. Allen how he reacted to such complaints.

"I don't react to that," he replied. "I mean, I write the story as the story should be written. If the character should be black, I make it black. If it should be white, I make it white. If it should be gay, I make the character gay. I never give that a second thought. That's not what's on my mind."

"I'm not writing a film to be an affirmative action thing. I'm not writing it as a social message or as a social gesture. I'm trying to



Sweet and Lowdown director Woody Allen with Sean Penn

REVIEW



Sean Penn and Samantha Morton in *Sweet and Lowdown*

'Sweet and Lowdown' is a minor Woody

Allen celebrates American jazz to so-so results

by Matthew Kennedy

Woody Allen movies have become an expected pseudo-event in our modern world. His universe is quite narrow, however, and its inhabitants follow a consistent psychology. How rare it is that Allen's heroes allow themselves uncomplicated pleasure. How memorable the end of *Hannah and Her Sisters* becomes for that reason, as the simple declaration of new life is undisturbed by a sight gag or one-liner. More often, Allen gives us heaping dollops of masochism — the '90s alone have seen bountiful tribute paid to self-hate: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Husbands and Wives*, *Deconstructing Harry*, *Celebrity*, and *Mighty Aphrodite*.

The new one, *Sweet and Lowdown*, once again has a central character plagued by demons of his own design. It tells the story of Emmet Ray, a nomadic guitarist of the 1930s. He's good, but the giant of the field is the French gypsy Django Reinhardt. Ray is all too aware of this, and he suffers from a paralyzing inferiority complex. That's familiar territory for Allen, as is a liberal use of jazz, but this is the first time jazz is front and center in the action. And is this history or fantasy? As in *Zelig*, Allen mixes fact and fiction together to amusing effect. Reinhardt existed, Ray didn't. Jazz critic Nat Hentoff, writer/director Douglas McGrath and Allen address the camera talking-heads-documentary-style to "account" for Ray and his place in this manufactured history of American jazz.

Sweet and Lowdown is another Allen tossed salad of comedy, sentiment, and exquisite period visuals topped by a telling treatise on human foibles. As expertly played by Sean Penn, Ray is coarse, cruel and lowdown. Penn has the nebbish neuroses of Allen's former protagonists or stand-ins (John Cusack in *Bullets Over Broadway*), but he has a mean streak here that recalls more serious-minded Martin Scorsese movies. Ray finds a true contrast in Hattie, a

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HAUS WESTON

OUT & ABOUT

Fri 24

Castro Theatre

"Home for the Holidays," the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus extravaganza. The beloved Men's Chorus, under the baton of Dr. Stan Hill, will regale their equally beloved audience with highlights from their holiday presentation. Featuring a carol sing-along, surprises, and the men's angelic voices. \$15. Three shows: 5pm, 7pm, & 9pm. Tix at Community Box Office 400 Castro. Info: 863-4475.

New Asia Restaurant

"An Evening of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy," presented by Bay Area comedian Lisa Geduldig. It's her now-traditional seasonal treat of Jewish comedy on Christmas in a Chinese restaurant, with dinner and cocktail shows both tonight and Christmas

day. Featuring *Seinfeld* co-writer and co-producer Carol Leifer; Roseanne staff writer Betsy Salkind; and popular queer comic Dan Rothenberg. \$45 dinner show (6pm), including 7-course Chinese banquet; \$30 cocktail show (9:30pm, including hors d'oeuvres & drink). 772 Pacific Ave (btwn Grant & Stockton). Tix/info: 522-3737.

Magic Theatre

Word for Word Winter Festival, featuring staged readings of two short stories: Dino Buzzati's "The Falling Girl" and Edna Ferber's "The Kitchen Side of the Door." Both are modern fables of urban women reflecting on their identities and expectations for the future. \$18-\$21. 7:30pm. Thru 12/30 (times vary; no show Christmas day). Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center. 437-6775.

Old First Church

"Celtic Christmas Eve at Old First,"

featuring Celtic folk musicians Golden Bough, a trio of modern-day minstrels performing its standard blend of traditional and original jigs, reels, ballads and Christmas songs. \$9 (\$7 seniors/students). 8pm. 1751 Sacramento St. Tix: 474-1608.

Sat 25

Red Vic Movie House

"Harold and Maude" (1972), directed by Hal Ashby. 20-year-old Harold is obsessed with death until he meets 79-year-old Maude, who teaches him how to appreciate life. A black comedy cult favorite with music by Cat Stevens. Starring Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon. \$6.50 (\$3 children/seniors). 2, 4, 7:15 & 9:15pm. Thru 12/26. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.

Castro Theatre

Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining," the perfect Christmas movie, featuring Jack Nicholson slowly going murderously insane in a wintry resort hotel where he's cooped up with only his wife, kid and ghosts for companions. Part of the Kubrick retrospective. Also on 12/26. 1, 4, 7, & 9:50pm. Castro Street at Market. Info: 621-6120.

Curran Theatre

"Cabaret," starring Joely Fisher as the Berlin nightclub singer Sally Bowles in this revival of the Broadway hit musical by Kander and Ebb. Cabaret-style tables available at the front of the orchestra seating. \$44-\$80 (plus applicable service fees). 2pm & 8pm. 445 Geary St. (btwn. Mason & Taylor). Tix from Ticketmaster, 512-7770. Info: 551-2000.

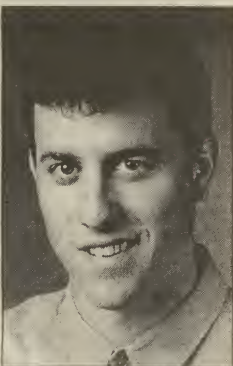
Theatre on the Square

"Forever Tango," the sizzling Argentine dance production created and directed by Luis Bravo, with musical direction and arrangements by Lisandro Adrover. Featuring a stunning all-Argentine cast of virtuoso tango dancers, an 11-piece orchestra, and celebrated tango singer Carlos Morel. \$40 & \$45. 8:30pm. 450 Post. Tix: 433-9500 or from BASS outlets.

Sun 26

The Marsh

Back by popular demand: "A Karen Carpenter Christmas," presented by Tom Ross and Morey Goldstein. A Yuletide extravaganza spoofing poor Karen, who not only has been offered the opportunity to star in her very own Christmas television special, but she has come up with a concept: too! It's a mighty big job considering she's just been trashed by *Rolling Stone* and can't find her holiday spirit. Starring Katie Guthorn, Morey Goldstein, Meg Mackay, Steffanos X, and J. Raoul Brody. Featuring classics from the Carpenter canon, Christmas songs, and Broadway showstoppers. \$17. Tix: 826-5750.



Queer comedian Dan Rothenberg joins the fun in Kung Pao Kosher Comedy at New Asia Restaurant. See Friday.

Mon 27

Red Vic Movie House

Join Nik Phelps and the Sprocket Ensemble as they play live original scores to "Ideas in Animation," featuring the animated works of Zach Richard, Nina Paley, Stacey Steers, Shirley Smith, Michael Rudnick, Rock Ross and others. Thrill to the Naughty Santa Stomp as 50 Santas dance away their hangovers. Special admission \$10 (no passes). 7:30 & 9:20pm. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.



The golden voices of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus fill the Castro Theatre during *Home for the Holidays*. See Friday.

Castro Theatre

Stanley Kubrick's "Paths of Glory" (1957). After the failure of a doomed frontal assault on entrenched German positions during World War I, three French infantrymen are chosen by lot to be court-martialed and executed as an example. Part of the Kubrick retrospective. 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9:10pm. Castro Street at Market. Info: 621-6120.

Tue 28

Red Vic Movie House

Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" (1926), the classic silent German film centering on the growing strife between an oppressed working class and the idle rich who exploit them. \$6.50 (\$3 children/seniors). 7:15 & 9:40pm. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.

Castro Theatre

Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket" (1987), starring Matthew Modine. Kubrick presents the Vietnam War not as jungles and heroism but as scared, scarred teenagers with automatic weapons marching into battle to the Mickey Mouse Club theme. 2, 4:30, 7, & 9:40pm. Castro Street at Market. Info: 621-6120.

Curran Theatre

Added performances: "Cabaret," the Broadway hit musical by Kander and Ebb. Extended one week to accommodate popular demand. Cabaret-style tables available at the front of the orchestra seating. \$34-\$75 (\$44-\$80 Saturdays). 8pm (2pm & 8pm 12/29 & 30). Thru 1/2/00. 445 Geary St. (btwn. Mason & Taylor). Tix from Ticketmaster, 512-7770. Info: 551-2000.

Wed 29

SF Main Library

Opening reception: "The Millennium Monument — Time Encapsulated," a traveling exhibition conceived and orchestrated by artist Allyson Levy. Created by kindergarten through high school seniors from Bay Area schools, 2,000 miniature time capsules, each constructed within a glass jar. Together

er they will create a free-standing monumental wall dividing the space of the Library's Jewett Gallery, symbolically representing a passageway into the next millennium. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. Civic Center Plaza. Info: 557-4282.

Theatre on the Square

Added performance: "Forever Tango," the sizzling Argentine dance production created and directed by Luis Bravo. \$30-\$45. 3pm. 450 Post. Tix: 433-9500 or from BASS outlets.

Castro Theatre

Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" (1971), featuring Malcolm McDowell's bullyboy Alex as both a perpetrator and victim in a repellent, inhuman, and reprehensible future world. 1:30, 4:15, 7, & 9:50pm. Castro Street at Market. Info: 621-6120.

Red Vic Movie House

Terry Gilliam's "Brazil" (1985), presenting a dystopic, depraved new world. This European version includes an additional 13 minutes of footage

cut from the US release. The film uses Monty Pythonesque slapstick comedy combined with stunning imagery to portray millennial anxieties, including the fear of complete technological mahem. \$6.50 (\$3 seniors/children). 2, 7 & 9:50pm. Thru Jan 2 (closed Dec. 31). 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.

Bethany Church

Violinist, vocalist and dancer S.K. Thiel performs a different kind of concert with his unique magical, tribal music. \$10 (\$7 seniors/students; \$5 under 18; NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1268 Sanches St. (at Clipper). Info: 647-8393.

Thu 30

The Swallow

Juanda Stewart sings on stage, accompanied by Larry O'Leno on piano. 1750 Polk St. (at Washington). 775-4152.

Castro Theatre

Double bill: Stanley Kubrick's "Killer's Kiss" (1955; 2:45, 5:50 & 9pm) and "The Killing" (1956; 1, 4:15, 7:20pm.). "Killers Kiss" tells the story of an unlucky boxer who saves a nightclub dancer from her boss, and is thereupon marked for death; "The Killing" offers a racetrack thriller about a precisely planned robbery undone by the wiles of a two-timing dame. Info: 621-6120.

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Calendare by Mark Mardon

Poetic tidings

This time of year, everybody's wondering what to do to honor the Winter Solstice and its attendant festivals, and foremost on everybody's mind is menu planning, gift shopping, house decorating, card writing, friends and relatives, and somehow getting through the stress of it all relatively unscathed.

Rituals come in all sorts. In the main, Americans observe holiday traditions guaranteed to add anxieties to the ordinary trials and tribulations of the workaday world. Lesbians and gay men are as caught in the rut as anyone; our attempted solutions have differed in style, but we've been no more successful than the rest of society at freeing ourselves of holiday jitters.

We can do better. We can read poetry. Yes, it sounds quaint, and it cops to the sort of sappy sentiment that obliges one to read Dickens at Christmas time. But, really, settling down on a crisp winter's night with a good volume of poetry is like partaking of fine wine, classical music, and a box of Godiva chocolates. It's the pause that restores.

So for your holiday reading pleasure, I nominate as best gay-male poetry anthology of 1999 *A Day For a Lay* (Barricade Books, New York City). It's superbly edited by Gavin Geoffrey Dillard, the one-time Hollywood hooker and bad boy of porn, who from an early age established a serious literary reputation as "The Naked Poet," so dubbed for his habit of publicly reading verse in the nude. His picturesque allure proved irresistible.

In recent years, Dillard has ensconced himself in quiet digs in a progressive coastal community somewhere in Northern California. He values his seclusion, immerses himself in spiritual seekings, and writes aphorisms almost daily. His verses are ones of extraordinary perception and sensitivity, the product of a fully mature man who has come into himself and found the wise spirit within.

True to Dillard's anti-establishment character, the volume he has pulled together aims to excite ordinary Joes, not academics; it's accessible, not heavyweight. And it's hugely entertaining: from familiar poets to more obscure ones, it takes you on a journey so flagrantly libidinous, chances are you'll get all hot and bothered.

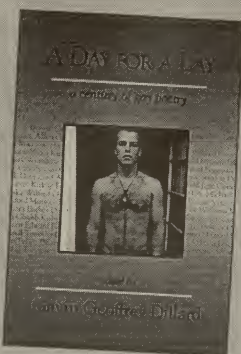
The poems pack plenty of steam. Take for instance Trebor's "Hustler," which begins:

He had a bank card for a cock
He'd insert it into horny old men with money...

or Antler's "What Every Boy Knows:

Every boy knows what it's like when he's really alone,
When it's safe to jack off with a passion,
When it's safe to take off his clothes and prance around
And parade his lubricating cock before every mirror in the house.

While eroticism is heavily emphasized in Dillard's choices, the collection sacrifices nothing in quality. The poems are consistently strong, from the old guard — Cavafy, García Lorca, Genet, Broughton, Norse, Ginsberg and others — to the new — Felice Picano, Dennis Cooper, Mark Doty, Mark Wunderlich, Justin Chin and, of course, Dillard himself. This volume elegantly returns poetry to the people, giving us gay men what we truly want for the holidays — a classy, sassy, hassle-free poetic turn-on. ▼



THEATRE

Spectacular plumage



Fifty original costume designs by Tony Award-winner Judith Dolan are featured in an exhibition at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum, *Princely Designs: Judith Dolan Designs for Hal Prince*. Dolan designed the costumes for director Prince's productions of *Candide* (pictured, El Dorado, the Bird of Paradise; Pasha; and Voltaire); last season's *Parade*; the 1981 Broadway *Merrily We Roll Along*, and many more shows. PALM's gallery is open to the public free of charge Wed.-Sat. *Princely Designs* continues through January 8. For more information, call 255-4800.

Grindhouses

◀ page 35

52 seats, according to the manager. The Tearoom must have hired the same interior decorator as the Campus: it too has white stars painted on the rough black concrete walls, but these stars, incongruously for this sleazy space, are larger and more dynamic. The floor barely slopes up from the screen, making it impossible to walk down the aisle without a silhouette of your head intruding on the video image. The movie here is even more primitive than *Kristen Bjorn* — it looks like a grainy '70s loop, with two men of unknown origin fucking on a bed. One wears a leather mask, and in a surprisingly self-reflexive touch, he takes it off at the end to reveal — yes, top and bottom are the same man! The real live show here is happening behind the stage, as men stroll in and out to actually

experience something along the lines of what they've seen on-screen — a testament to cinema's enduring powers of persuasion.

Still in search of the kind of mood elevator only pornography can give, I remember The Strand, a couple of blocks down on Market. This cavernous, dusty palace has had many incarnations: classic rep house, glorious grindhouse, and now sacred hall of hetero video, all in just a couple of decades. At a mere \$5 admission, this is the place to be on a rainy day. But surprisingly, the dramatically large space (after the Campus and the Tearoom) is almost empty, giving an air of serenity to the place that's reinforced by the large, fuzzy, projected video: *The Desert Cafe*, starring "Houston" and "Rod Towers." The image is so big that it's impossible to read the FBI warning. In a made-to-order metaphor for the triumph of video over celluloid, the middle-front rows of

the theatre are occupied not by patrons but by the massive video projector. It's a huge black monolith — kind of like the one in 2001 — that blocks part of the screen from almost anywhere you sit. This explains why the few customers are crunched up in the seats against the left and right walls. Upstairs, a hatched-faced, half-naked businessman who looks a little like William Burroughs glares from his perch in an open toilet stall, not even pretending to read the paper he's holding; downstairs, an elderly gent with a gravelly voice yells out a few innocent catcalls that echo eerily in the dark: "Ooo weel!" and "Oh baby, I'll give you that!" (in response to Houston's girlfriend strapping on a red, carrot-like dildo). This place is so tranquil, and the canned score for *The Desert Cafe* so soothing, you could almost bring your mom, especially if she's named Bambi ... or Tawny. ▼

Lavender Tube

◀ page 36

who could have been Tony's. Simon is into queer politics; Tony doesn't want to flaunt. Tony was out of work forever while Simon worked hard; now Tony has a job he loves, and Simon never sees him. These two are the most realistic queer TV couple of the millennium. We know them, we love them, and we wonder why there isn't an American version of them. Blue boas all round.

Best psycho

Instead we must content ourselves with other queer bests — like best queer serial killer. John Laroquette wins that boa — though in his case, constrictor rather than feather might be more appropriate. Laroquette has done a series of knife-wielding piroettes (yes, dear, turns) on ABC's *The Practice* as the man who just can't stop murdering his lovers. Much as it grates against our *Basic Instincts*, we find Laroquette's performances stellar, even if the politics suck.

A football-colored boa to Jack on *Dawson's Creek* for the most poignant portrayal of a real gay teen on TV. Of course, like all queer TV jacks, this one is partnerless, and any sexcapades occur off-screen, but when football hero Jack came out to his high school class through the reading of a poem in the insufferably claustrophobic town of Capeside, we felt transported (horribly, regrettably) back to our queer youth. Jack continues to charm us, and his friendship with fellow Capeside outcast Jen is the dramatic counterpoint of K&J.

Speaking of K&J, the best queer scene on TV this year was Jack's confrontation with his beleaguered past ("They called me Jack McFairlyland") when he accompanies Karen to her stepkids' elementary school for a parent-teacher meeting. Jack ends up breaking up a razzing of a young queen, John, as he's being hassled by his testosterone-driven classmates. It's poignant and campy all at once. When Karen returns from her meeting, she tells Jack they must go off to the Palms for martinis. She looks at young John for a moment and asks, "You coming?" John notes he must go to a class. Karen responds, "Too bad, honey. You'll learn a lot more over martinis at the Palms." Olive boas all round, shaken, not stirred.

Saturday Night Live also gets a blue boa for the most queer content of any show this season save *W&G*, *Jerry Springer* and the news. We aren't sure why, since the same geriatric crowd has been writing the material since the show debuted a quarter-century ago, but it has been *tres* gay this season. Best queer skit award was earned during last week's Christmas show. The irresistible male erotic dancer, Mango (cast member Chris Kattan), agonized over his trip home for Christmas, where father Guava (guest host Danny De Vito) dissed him. That night Mango is visited by an angel in a queer variation on *It's a Wonderful Life* (the holiday film whose insufferably cloying heterosexuality never ceases to make us thrilled we are queer). The angel — played by REM's Michael Stipe — takes Mango back in time to see why Daddy Guava is so peeved. (Mango awakes, looks at Stipe and cries, "Is

it the end of the world as we know it?") Seems Guava was quite a little c-tease in his day, too. Mango gains insight, and holiday happiness is restored. Ah, television. We loved this. Mango prefers lamé, so a gold boa for this recurring character who has turned a series of butch guest hosts, from Cuba Gooding Jr. to Dylan McDermott, into queer bait.

Speaking of queer bait, a pink boa — honorable mention best — to Soncor for their perverse commercials starring the tooth fairy as a middle-aged butch guy in pink tights, tutu and wings going door to door bitching about people's brushing habits. Who says advertising isn't subliminal?

But our blue boa suitable for chasing goes to Tidy Cats cat litter for the queerest commercials we've ever seen, starring a claqué of faggoty felines bitching about cats with big bladders, "roommates" and things that don't smell very nice — all while wearing S/M-style leather collars. Our pussies find these commercials the cat's pajamas. Silk, of course, with matching smoking jackets.

Finally, our choice for best quote came last week on *Nightline*, during a show devoted to the end of PBS's *Firing Line*, the longest-running news program on TV, hosted by the much-lam-pooned effete conservative intellectual gadfly William F. Buckley, Jr. Ted Koppel noted as he began his paean to Buckley, "But there is more to William F. Buckley than just a pretty face." Yes, dear, and there is more to you, Mr. Koppel, than just a fabu coif.

Ah, television. Happy New Year, chums. See you in the next century. ▼

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'Thanks for the memories' Look back at leather '99

by Mister Marcus

Well, here we are coasting into the end zone of 1999, and facing us is a whole new century. We've come a long way, baby. It hasn't all been easy, but it has been rewarding. This year for the leather community has gone about as well as could be expected. We elected figureheads in the local and the international communities who are all doing what they are supposed to do, and doing it well.

Of course there are rumors, always rumors. Any you may have heard about Mr./Ms. Bisexual Leather 2000 are just that — the organizers couldn't find judges willing to tackle that one.

Almost every leather contest, whether for men, women or both, at the bar, city, state and regional levels, has come and gone. Only one more remains leading up to IML and IMsL in 2000.

With that in mind, I wish to say to all of you, thanks for the memories. Here's a little recap of what took place in this Year of the Hare (and remember, on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, next year — 4698 — is the Year of the Dragon).

January

Drummer Boy Ryan Goldner and his daddy, Scott Reikofski, took wedding vows at the Philadelphia MC weekend run; Bill Hubbard won the January 2000 spot on the calendar; and Todd Bauer won the February 2000 spot.

After Tony Mills gave his dynamic stepping-aside speech, he sashed Dean Ross of Ottawa, Canada as Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 99 in Washington, DC. The International Rubber Flag came out of the closet in full color in *Vulcan Magazine*; The Men of Discipline in DC celebrated their 4th anniversary and they launched a chapter in San Francisco, Maryland and have launched MOD International.

SMMILE presented a check to the AIDS Emergency Fund for \$21,017 — the proceeds from the 1999 calendar! In San Jose, Rob Price was chosen Mr. Santa Clara Co. Leather, and Laurie Aguinaga



The Daddy of Daddy's Bar, Philip Turner, left, and former IML Jeff Tucker were victims of Beauty's Revenge, a drag benefit in Hayward last year. They did it for charity!

won the Ms. title. In San Diego, the Eagle was sold and renamed The Arena. It's still leather. The GDIs celebrated their 25th anniversary, and Pushy Phyllis stayed sober! The Edge presented checks totaling \$13,332 to their chief beneficiaries.

February

Carlos Mosca was elected president of the Defenders MC; the Cal Eagles MC celebrated their 15th Anniversary, and William Schindler was named Mr. Los Angeles Leather; while Robert Hernandez copped the Mr. Daddy's Leather title. Amy Marie Meek announced that Int'l. Ms. Leather would be held in Vegas, and John Weis announced that the Leather Leadership Conference III would be held in San Francisco.

John Krochka (the Huge One) won the March 2000 spot but moved back to Florida; Craig Byrnes of Washington, DC won

the International Mr. Bear title. Morris Lyons was elected president of the Cal Eagles; Kevin Powers won the Mr. Cell Block Leather title in Chicago and was snatched up by Graylin Thornton (the Cecil B. DeMille of porno) making Kevin a minor star; BJ Cavor won the Mr. Powerhouse Leather title and Werner Tillinger

was named Mr. Edge Leather;

T.J. Istvan and Sheba won the emperor and empress titles and haven't stopped working yet! Tom Beyer was named Mr. Polk Street Leather and Carl Battles (he with no gag reflex) became Mr. April 2000 on the calendar; Faye Foltz, formerly of Chicago, was named Ms. Los Angeles Leather.

March

The month was fun. Mike Lion was chosen the first-ever Mr. Marin Leather (despite of a nasty meddling queen who did all she could — and failed! — to squelch Donna Sachet as the emcee); Dann Cantrell was chosen Mr. May 2000 for the bare chest calendar (his second time!); Werner Tillinger won the Mr. SF Leather 1999 title, with BJ Cavor the first runner-up and Glennon Sutter the second runner-up.

The nominees for the Golden Dildeaux Awards were announced to much glee and surprise; Chris Huffman won the June 2000 calendar spot but moved away, so David Polizzi took the spot. Khiki and Samantha (two women) won the Int'l. Master/Slave titles; and José Cebollero was chosen Mr. Philadelphia Leather.

In Seattle, that cute Bruce Saari won the Washington State Mr. Leather title and will compete alongside his lover (who just happens to be Mr. Seattle Leather) at

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Sunday, December 26

Defenders MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, last one of the century! From 1500-1800, only \$8 including food and chance to lust after Mario T.

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve! A Millennium Military Ball at River Business up in Guerneville (Bob Brunson's swan song), with special guest Int'l. Mr. Leather Bruce Chopnik. Featuring entertainment by Jessica Williams, T.J. Istvan and Sheba. Sounds like a lot of fun!

At Daddy's, \$25 tickets are on sale now for guaranteed admission between 2000-2200. After that, it's first come, first served. Includes two beverages of your choice, party favors, champagne toast, fun, ad camaraderie. Hangover guaranteed.

Besides "Jito Presents" madness, for a \$50 weekend pass, you can almost camp out at Club Townsend, which features non-stop dancing all weekend, with a brunch to revive you and a three-day party as only Token Diva, Inc. can produce it.

Saturday, January 1, 2000

The 15 Association's play party is the first of the century, with doors open from 2100 to 2300 tonight; party until 0200 for \$10. BYOB; guests must arrive with you; you know the location.

Sunday, January 2

Final six Bare Chest Calendar 2000 men get auctioned off by Lenny Broberg for dinner dates at the Eagle beer/soda bust, 1500-1800, to benefit AEF and Positive Resources. Bring cash, plastic, and non-rubber checks.

Thursday, January 6

Choosing Mr. January 2001 for the BC Calendar tonight at the Powerhouse, at 2100. Win \$100 and some fame. Judges not yet selected for the first contest of the century.

Saturday, January 8

First leather title of the century conferred tonight in Dallas, Texas, when Mr. Dallas Leather will be chosen to compete at Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000. Produced by Johnny Grey of Shades of Grey Leathers. Surprise entries.

Lessons in humility

by John F. Karr

I try to be humble, I do. But as some sage down at the Watering Hole counseled, "Get real, girl." So I'll admit it: I live, I absolutely live to see if I'm quoted at the end of each year in the newest edition of that triumphant compendium of smut, stars and sex, *The Best of the Super Stars*. When editor/author John Patrick subtitled it "The Year in Sex," he means it. This guy has scanned the scandal rags throughout the nation to glean the pithiest, most prescient and prurient remarks about the male stars of Tinseltown and Teasertown.

The first third of the book covers the stars of Hollywood: who is, who did, who might. Another third covers the stars of porno and their videos: the superstars, the new boys, the gay-for-pay boys, the frenzy for foreskinned foreigners, and so on. And the final third is the most amazing, containing first-hand reports from men who have been "escorted" by porn stars. What tales these anonymous gentlemen are willing to tell! What comparisons of your favorite star's bedroom performances are compiled, what detailed accounts of what you can buy for how much from whom, and how well it is delivered.

A recent survey showed the majority of B.A.R. readers also subscribed to *The Threepenny Review*, *The Nation*, and *Infantism Monthly*. So you can see that for a porn scribe such as I to be lifted from these exalted pages into *Best of the Superstars* is like getting a Pulitzer. Now, excuse me for blowing my own horn, but that's my favorite form of auto-erotism: this year I'm lifted seven times, being quoted on a variety of trenchant subjects. Yet wait! I'm not alone in my glory. Proving the nationally recognized literary weight of the B.A.R., I'm in the also-quoted company of Roberto Friedman, Chris Culwell, Richard Dodds, and Mark Mardon.

Just to provide a taste of the book's contents, you can read in it Steve Rambo's discourse on the suction problems displayed by gay-for-pay boys, learn the carefully honed "technique" which

Paul Morgan credits for his amazing cum shots, and read a startling description of the live show Cole Tucker performed at an SM club in Cologne, which included several fists and the participation of most of the patrons on hand. And there's some thoughtful stuff, too, especially in a section that explores our likely shortchanging by gay-for-pay performers: "Being gay has to do with a psychological, erotic, social and emotional orientation," one writer states. The indictment of non-gay performers lies in whether they can convincingly convey a complex of gay reactions while they suck dick (which, after all, is an act anyone can perform. I have, and I only used to be gay.)

At any rate, *The Best of the Superstars* is the most lowbrow, most fun book of any year. The latest edition is now at A Different Light; like most treasurable tomes, it's a limited edition and sells out fast.

Booted out

When I recently visited the Jaguar bookstore, I was delighted to find myself conversing with counter boy Tristan Paris, who reassured me he was not going home to Montreal, but would be gracing the Castro a while longer. But then he delivered a striking bit of news: He was finished at Falcon, booted out. Seems when he obtained an artful and large sunburst tattoo around his navel, he broke the conditions of his contract: no tattoos at Falcon. Although I was eager to bring the full story and a photo of the offending tattoo to this charmer's many fans, I don't know how long that child thought I was going to chase him. It was the siege of Paris; I courted the lad in three separate visits, but, alas, I was spurned. I guess I should give thanks; wasn't I the guy who wanted to be humble?

Well, yes, but not humbled. It seems the young star's going to be on the cover of *Unzipped* in a month or so. Could it be that the B.A.R. lacks the requisite *réclame* for the revelation of Tristan's travail and tummy? Last he told me, though, there was a chance he might work out the possibility of appearing on the Mustang or

Jocks divisions of Falcon. I certainly hope so.

Succulent Christopher Scott was the last star who left the company, and his subsequent videos don't depict him in near as flattering a light as did Falcon. And although I'm constantly fending off proposals to make my porn debut, I'm certainly no fool, and I'm holding out for Falcon. Let the other studios bicker over me, I'm a straight-to-the-top sort of guy.

And now, to end my last column of the millennium (just when you thought she was going to go on for a thousand years), I would like to bestow upon you a little Christmas gift that should splendidly usher us into the dawning of the Age of Aquarius. No matter which superstars there are to come, many of us will always remember — with a swell in our hearts as well as our dicks — the delectable Rusty Samuels. So



Rusty Samuels

here he is, in a photo taken by my beloved companion at the Folsom Street Fair. Too bad you can't see this in color; that polar skin, and, most especially, that blazing orange pouf of pubic hair peeking over his waistband, shooting in a new millennium of happy sexuality with a radiant sunburst of curly glory. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000; Tom Wallace of San Diego won the July spot on the BC calendar; and the Cuff Bar in Seattle became the Cuff Complex complete with a leather bar, a cruise bar, a disco and a restaurant.

By this time, Carmen Rodriguez had already gone through four lovers. The current one is "it!"

April

The month had its moments. Peggy aka "O" won the Ms. New York Leather and she is fine! Dean Prager became Mr. August 2000 on the BC calendar; Leather Leadership Conference III moved from New York to San Francisco without a qualm, but it looks like LLC 2000 in Washington, DC in April is not without difficulties. Hopefully it will be OK.

Here in SF, David Conner won the Mr. Hairy Chest title at Daddy's, while across the continent, Michael Brewer of Albany, New York, became Mr. Empire State Leather. Up north, in chilly British Columbia, Marshall Miller

was chosen Mr. September 2000 on the BC Calendar (you should see his hunky web site); Alan Selby became a U.S. citizen to much hoopla; and at the fabulous ABW event in Washington, Scott Reikofski, Schelli Dittman and Jerry Acosta became American Leatherman, Leatherwoman and Leatherboy respectively. Respect them!

Eric Keith was chosen Mr. SF Drummer, and I won't even mention who won the Drummer boy title; Queen Cougar and Frank Nowicki were named co-emcees for Int'l. Mr. Leather 1999; Rick Hunter was chosen Mr. October 2000; and David Baretta was selected as Mr. November.

May

All eyes were turned toward Chicago and the Int'l. Mr. Leather contest. With some 52 hot studs competing, Bruce Chopnik of Denver prevailed, with Sean Reilly of Long Beach the first runner-up and the delightful Mike Hargiss of San Diego the second runner-up. San Francisco's entries, Werner, BJ and Glennon, were among the 20 semi-finalists, and Kevin Sims won the December

2000 spot (his third appearance). Chris Hummel was chosen for the March 2000 spot because the winner left town.

June

It was a warm, wonderful month with title holders, leather and otherwise, busting their chops raising money and bringing honor and pride to their positions.

Pam Meyer was named Ms. SF Leather and went on to win the IMSL title the next month; the bare-chest-calendar float, sponsored by Miller Brewing, won another ribbon in the alphabet soup parade, and the leather pride contingent looked spiffy throughout.

Rick Hunter won the cover spot on the BC Calendar, and Kevin Sims won the back cover spot.

Finally, James S. Geras, fabulous and world-renowned for his art, started photographing the 2000 bare-chest calendar masterpiece. Do you have yours yet? ▼

Stay tuned next week for Part II of Mr. Marcus' "Look back at leather '99."

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Mr. Ripley

◀ Arts cover

manners and ingratiating personality, Dickie is quickly hired by Mr. Greenleaf to go to Italy and bring his son home. With money in his pocket, and first class passage to Italy on the Queen Mary, Tom is suddenly thrown into the upper-class world of Dickie and his girlfriend, Marge (Gwyneth Paltrow).

Tom Ripley's talents for impersonation, forgery, and spontaneous lying are quickly put to good use as he becomes Dickie's new best friend and confidant. No longer a washroom attendant, Tom has a glamorous new life he cherishes and a growing obsession for the handsome, dashing playboy who has inadvertently become Tom's *raison d'être*. But Tom's charms eventually wear thin for Dickie and, in an isolated confrontation on a small boat, Tom kills his friend and decides to take his identity. It is a masquerade doomed to failure, but not before Tom takes the lives of several others who stand in his way.

Geek love

Matt Damon's boyish features and slightly geeky demeanor seem



Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*

perfect for the role of Tom Ripley. Tom's pathology and ultimately ghoulish behavior are muted by Damon's performance and, in the

process, made all the more believable. Anthony Minghella makes several crucial changes in the novel written by Patricia High-

smith and first filmed in French by René Clement as *Purple Noon* (1960), starring Alain Delon. In Minghella's adaptation, Dickie's

murder is more a crime of passion than a premeditated assassination, and the novel's leitmotif of painting is replaced by jazz. Both of these choices serve the film well, since they make Tom's character and milieu more accessible to the viewer. Minghella also expands the role of Peter Smith-Kingsley (Jack Davenport), a gay friend of Dickie's, adding balance and perspective to the strong homoerotic subtext that runs throughout the movie.

But the film's one and only sex symbol is Jude Law. As Dickie (make what you will of that), Law is a blond American god whose loose sexuality and easy morals invite everyone to imagine what it would be like to make love to him. Spoiled, immature, and much too beautiful and rich for his own good, Dickie is a hirsute Jay Gatsby on an Italian fling. When he emerges naked from his bath, with the camera — and Tom Ripley's eyes — lovingly embracing his posterior... well, there's no mistaking the message. Dickie is not overtly homosexual, nor is Tom, but their world is so full of passion and romance, both characters have problems finding reasons to forsake anything potentially pleasurable.

Gwyneth Paltrow has the thankless task of portraying the long-suffering Marge, but she does so with her usual intensity. Cate Blanchett charms in the splashy but small role of Meredith, the society girl who ultimately becomes Tom Ripley's undoing. And in the supporting role of Dickie's Princeton classmate, Freddie Miles, Philip Seymour Hoffman creates the kind of thoroughly believable, totally repulsive heterosexual jerk that Oscar nominations are made of. It's almost impossible to believe this is the same actor currently playing a drag queen opposite Robert DeNiro in the movie *Flawless*.

The Talented Mr. Ripley is an extraordinarily beautiful film to behold. Italy is awash in the soft lighting and muted colors of John Seale's cinematography. Roy Walker's production design and Anne Roth and Gary Jones' costumes recreate the carefully detailed styles of the late '50s. And Gabriel Yared's jazz-inspired score jolts the film to life on more than one occasion with impromptu jam sessions that cast a spell of their own.

But with his literate script and intelligent direction, Ripley is Anthony Minghella's film. There is only one scene, a confrontation between Tom and Marge involving a menacing straight razor, where Minghella goes melodramatically over the top. But this is a minor transgression given the perfect directorial sensibilities he otherwise employs from start to finish. It's hard to believe that the late Patricia Highsmith, whose writing also inspired Alfred Hitchcock, would be anything but pleased with the way Minghella humanizes her anti-hero Tom Ripley.

Purple Noon, although beautiful, suffered from a lack of humanity that served to alienate the audience. But Minghella's telling of the same story draws the audience into Tom Ripley's world, evoking empathy, if not sympathy, at every turn. Stringing us along, drawing us in, Minghella allows us the hope of redemption until the last few frames of the film when, reluctantly, sadly, we must acknowledge that there is something terribly, terribly wrong with the remarkable Mr. Ripley. ▼

The Talented Mr. Ripley opens on Christmas Day.

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We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

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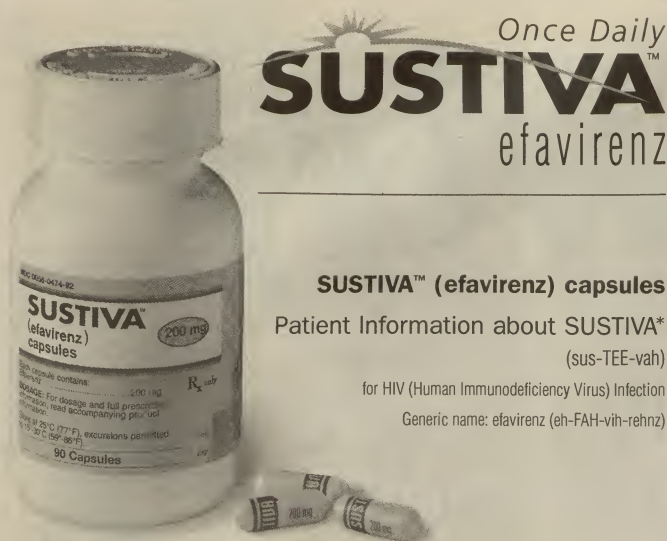
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www.sustiva.com

*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>. For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>.

1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 1999.

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Once Daily SUSTIVA™ efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules Patient Information about SUSTIVA* (sus-TEE-vah) for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DuPont Pharmaceuticals

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BOOKS

Something's coming, something great

by Deborah Peifer

The important thing to remember is that Naiad Press, the oldest and largest lesbian publishing house in the United States, is not closing. You might think that something is terribly wrong when I tell you that although Naiad published 32 books this year, it will publish only four in 2000, but, in fact, co-founders Barbara Grier and Donna McBride are doing something remarkable.

Kelly Smith opens Bella Books next year, and most, but not all of Naiad's writers will make the shift to Bella. Naiad will keep Claire McNab, Karin Kallmaker (although not her alter ego, Laura Adams), and Linda Hill, as well as most of Naiad's back list. The results are win/win for everyone. Grier and McBride keep their hands in publishing, while cutting back their overwhelming workload to something manageable. Naiad's writers are not left without a publisher. Bella Books kicks off with a gaggle of recognized writers. Readers don't have to go through a serious case of lesbian fiction withdrawal.



Barbara Grier at Outwrite '91

Grier explains, "The opening of a new young and vital company is a wonderful event. This no-money-involved arrangement allows all that is good and right about Naiad Press and its authors to go on and on. Back when there was a feminist movement that we all believed would save the world, this was the way these things were accomplished."

What I say is thank you to Barbara and Donna for their extraordinary work, and good luck to Kelly Smith and Bella Books. Let the reading continue!

More to come

Next year already promises to be a great year for those of us who read to live. Here are just a few of the highlights. You want short stories? How about collections written by the extraordinary Lesléa Newman (*Girls Will Be Girls*) and the astonishing Felice Picano (*The New York Stories*), both published by Alyson, as well as an as yet untitled collection by the glorious Victoria Brownworth. Yearning for erotica? Karen X. Tulchinsky comes to the rescue with *Hot & Bothered 2: Short Short Fiction on Lesbian Desire* (Press Gang) fea-

turing such lesbian luminaries as Jewelle Gomez, Jess Wells, Lesléa Newman, and Elana Dykewomon. We can also look forward to *Pillow Talk II: More Lesbian Stories Between the Covers* (Alyson) by Lesléa Newman (does she ever rest?). If this anthology is only half as hot as the first volume, it will have to be shipped in an asbestos wrapper.

Longing for good detective fiction? Claire McNab provides the best with a new Carol Ash-ton called *Under Suspicion* that has Carol coming to the States to do an FBI course and finding herself a suspect in a murder, as well as the second in the Denise Cleever series, as yet untitled. Michael Nava presents us with a new Henry Rios mystery (working title *Rag & Bone*), and then breaks our hearts by insisting "it's the last in the series."

Fiction of all kinds arrives to delight our readerly souls. Press Gang contributes *Maria's Revenge* by Makeda Silvera, a novel about family, loyalty and betrayal, and *Magic Eight Ball* by Marion Douglas, in which a magic eight ball is just the first of Julia's experiences with other-worldly phenomena. New Victoria's intriguing *Do Drums Beat There?* by Doe Tabor is a first novel by a young Native American writer, set in the 1970s during the Red Power Movement.

Brian Bouldrey's first novel, *The Genius of Desire*, is, I believe, the best novel of adolescence since *The Catcher in the Rye*. Mirabile dictu, he has a new novel coming out this spring from Haworth Press's new imprint, Southern Tier Editions, called *Love, the Magician* (after the Falla ballet, *El Amor, Brujo*). His novel is "launching with the other book in the new series, Stephen Beachy's novel, *Distortion*, which is really impossible and difficult in the way great books are." In the fall, Southern Tier will bring out Paul Reidinger's novel, *The Cure*, as well as (hopefully) a new edition of Sam D'Allesandro's *The Zombi Pit* with some new material and a forward by Dennis Cooper.

And further down the line

Later still are Katherine Forrest's long-awaited sequel to *Daughters of a Coral Dawn*, and a new novel from Jean Taylor (she of the glorious Maggie Garrett novels) that features a lesbian lapdancer. Caro Clarke, whose *Wolf Ticket* was such a wonderful novel, is working on a novel "set in Paris and Provence in 1913. It involves a rich American living in Paris and a French artist."

Actor-director-writer and all-around great guy Michael Kearns explores the evolution of queers in Hollywood with *Gay Hollywood* (Alyson). He's also working on "a spiritual guide to acting for Heinemann. While that would, God help us, not be the title, it would be the focus." Kearns' earlier books on acting from Heinemann were an extraordinary gift not just for actors, but for anyone who wanted to live a fully-realized life. I expect his new book will have a great deal to say to all of us, too. Whew. Riches, riches, and more riches for all of us. Happy new year!



Panic time?

If you need to grab a last-minute gift, *Nice Girls Don't Wear Cha-Cha Heels!*, camp lines from classic films collected by Leigh Rutledge (Alyson, \$10.95) should do the trick nicely. After all, doesn't everyone need to know who said: "For two bachelors, you seem to know a great deal about what women wear." ▼

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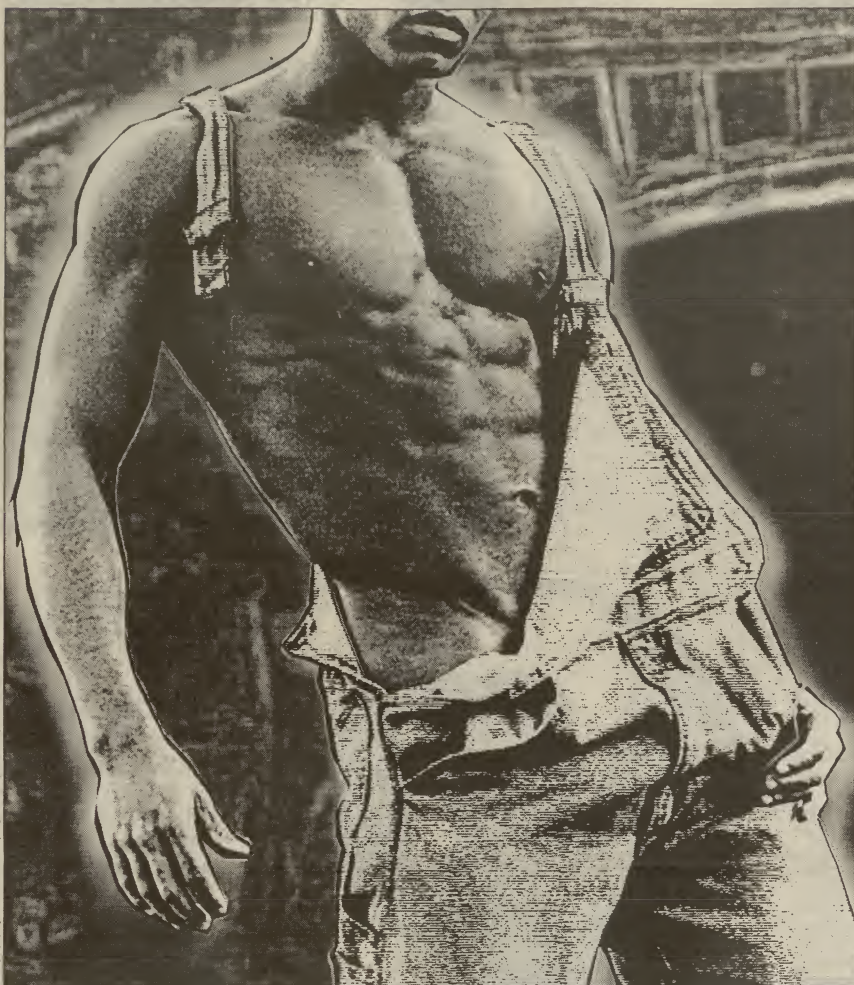
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BAR TALK



photography by Steven Unterhill, digital manipulation by Mike Hardison

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PARTING GLANCES

Safeway - Concord - Thanksgiving
You- tall Asian born in 1976 w/girlfriend? Me guy behind you at check-out-Interested? ☎ 71131

Alma/Cole Valley Sun 10/24 11:30
You: walking down Alma after work-out. Me: driving up Alma in grey rodeo. Exchanged glances. How about coffee? ☎ 71059

The Watergarden Sun. Oct 29
You too buffed Hispanic. I was the Hispanic guy who's room you walked into, #6 you made a certain request and I agreed to it, you stood there trying to aide your request ☎ 71061

Eric At Buddies Sunday Nov 7
I like your great tattoo, you like mine. You where amazing. Let's do it again in bed. Call me! It will be cool. ☎ 71062

Red Dodge Ram Bay Bridge 11-20
Construction Worker? We passed and smiled about 7:30am. Would like to meet for more. Me black Nissan went towards Oakland. ☎ 71063

Alameda, Friday Nov. 12
You gave me your newspaper from your table behind me in the Mex Restaurant. Wanna meet for dinner and eat together? Call me! Mitch ☎ 71064

Buttercup In Berkeley 11/26
You sat at window table approx. noon, day after Thanksgiving. You: glasses, moustache, balding, dark, over 40. I was with gal-pal, we smiled as I exited. Thinking 'bout you. ☎ 71177

Saturday Night, 10/23 BB's
You 38, me 45. You offered ride home; I took taxi instead. You left 10/30 for Philadelphia. Exchanged numbers & intentions; I lost your card. Damn! Please call. Tom. ☎ 71060

Cow Palace 12/4
You: stunning, glasses, light blue striped, with (boy?)friend. Me: interested, tan shirt, faded 501's, with father, his lover. Wish I'd talked to you. Give me a second chance? ☎ 71178

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
 Seeking Relationship ☐
 Seeking Adventure ☐
 Lesbian ☐
 Fetishes ☐
 Couples ☐
 Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Hey Ted Its Me Rick
We met Sunday 11-7 at Buddies. Let's continue. Sorry it was a bad night to leave together. Let's fix that... ☎ 71065

Butternut Squash
Cala-Thus 11/4. You: handsome WM wearing suit behind my gal-pal and me. We talked about how you were gonna prepare it. I've got some tasty squash recipes to share! ☎ 71066

Muni #14 11-9 Early Eve
You: shaved head- white t- fatigues. Me: tall bearded, oversized sweatshirt-music in ears. Thanks for the wink and smile- could there be more? ☎ 71096

Cafe Flore Sat 11/20 Middy
Share a smile in line for the mens room. You: blonde, white-t shirt, jeans, adorable. Me: black leather jacket, jeans, cap. Would like to meet. ☎ 71097

Looking For Randal
Sorry I missed you before the move. Lost your phone #. SFO was last contact: SSF or Daly City. Drove you to DMV in East Bay, Steamworks. ☎ 71098

Kirby, Kirby, Kirby
You/me, the Windmills, Sat. 11/20 (Late). Both up to no good. Wanted to ask you out, wish I would have then. I was in "total" awe... Dinner? Jeff ☎ 71132

Frank At Ocean Beach
You had a bike. I had a new car. Back to my place on 20th. I dropped you in the Castro. Would love to go again. How about it? Jim ☎ 71133

Tom-Leather Buddies 11/25
You = from New England; Me = familiar with your workplace there. Would love to meet and play with your other piercing! ☎ 71134

Bed Bath & Beyond 11/21
You, brown hair, beard, yellow long sleeve dress shirt & blue jeans. Me: blond, beard, green long sleeve sports logo shirt, blue jeans. Between 3-4pm. Interested? ☎ 71135

South By Southwest
You went to a Hockey game in Phoenix. I continued to Albuquerque. Care to... lunch or...something? ☎ 71136

Ross Store 10:30am Thurs 9 Dec
Curly haired cutie, purchasing festive ties to "work 2 catering job" in line behind muscular black man. "Had to rush off to work." Let's make time. ☎ 71176

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Sonoma County
GWM 6'1", 180# easygoing, versatile, playful & horny. Looking for 35-45 ski buddy & more with many interests N/S, N/D, give a call. ☎ 71067

ISO Outdoors Guy
WM, masc, attrac, 145, 5'7", great shape, negative, sense of humor, 40's; you are similar, very masc, neg, attrac, great shape, stable, kind; for friends, dating. ☎ 71068

Slim Gdkg Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV- seeks similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Safe only! ☎ 71069

Incurable Romantic
Do you enjoy cuddling before the fire? GWM 66, 5'10", 140#, wavy hair; ISO Latin/Asian man for intimacy and social outings. Hayward area. ☎ 71070

GAM Seeks Sincere GWM Over 50
Attractive 50, professional, self employed. 150#, 5'8" looking for GWM 50-65 for friendship. Possible LTR. ☎ 71074

Senior Special
Mid 40's bi WM. 6', 180, 6 1/2" cut. F/A, G/P. Redhead seeks over 60 top. North Bay best. ☎ 71075

Big Hearted Country Guy Seeks
Spiritual masculine guy to share mountain property 2 hrs. north of S.F. Me: 45, average looks, medium build. You: honest, young at heart, adventurous, open to LTR? ☎ 71071

Older 70's GWM Seeks Younger
Under 45, gulf/g man for lots of cuddling, kissing and making intimate love. In or out of bed, you will enjoy having me as a friend. ☎ 71107

Healthy HIV+ Cool Latin Guy
I'm 35yrs. 5'8" 158lb. brn skin, good body. ISO boyfriend. Into arts, music, sports, sex mmmmm. Thin (nice butt) versatile +. No drugs, lite drink ok. Size not important. Latin, White or Italian. Call me. ☎ 71072

GWJM Manbody Boyface 100%Real
Adventuresome, affectionate, 6-1", 175#, crewcut, clean shaven, architect, nonsmoker, early riser, own apartment, swimmer, hiker, cook, pises, 33, weekend at romantic B & B or "Thelma And Louise" roundrip. ☎ 71073

Nice Guy Seeks Same
Attractive HIV+, 5'8", 140lbs brn/hzl 47, top, quick witted, strong personality enjoy going out & staying at home, good company and fantastically loyal, seeks partner; total bottom, strong character, passionate, independent and affectionate. ☎ 71076

Pleasing Buffed Guy Wanted
Outgoing, adventurous, handsome, wheelchair guy, seeks aware, big hearted, buffed, caring guy for relationship or intimate sexual encounters. Be submissive and eager to please. Intelligent and educated. ☎ 71077

Handsome Italian
40, 6'2", 185lbs, well-endowed into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- Latin man who is honest, romantic and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 71078

Genuinely Nice Guy
GWM, 42, 5'9 1/2", 160lbs. sincere, sensual romantic, sexual, healthy positive, mostly bottom, hairy, sexy, fun. Searching for top, h/wt proportional. Please be emotionally available and down to earth. ☎ 71079

Seeking Friendship, LTR
GWM, 35, 6'0", 170, bottom, HIV-, seeking new friends, for possible LTR. 35-45, professional. Please be sincere. No overweight. Let's have fun. ☎ 71099

EB WM Seeks LM For?
Attractive 35yo WM seeks friendship or more. Like movies, dinner; dancing, cuddling. Be 28-40, not bad to look at and have a sense of humor. Smoker ok. ☎ 71100

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 5'6", 140# brown eyes, goatee, dark hair, professional looking for GWM between 26-40yo for friendship or more. Like biking, travel, go out dinner, movies, hiking etc. ☎ 71101

Dirty Old Man 4 Buttboy
Senior masculine GWM wants your ass. Seeking masculine/ submissive GWM. (For the right guy, I can be a filthy old man). ☎ 71102

Friendship And Sex
Seeking both. Me: 50 BM top. You: 55-60 WM bottom. Let's have dinner, drinks, smoke, conversation and good sex. Please be 5'10" or less. Not thin, no beard and sensitive nips. ☎ 71103

Seeking For A Nice Guy
GAM, 24, 5'9", 175# healthy, cute, funny, easy going but very caring, creative, romantic, likes music and dancing. Seeks GWM about under 35. No overweights please. ☎ 71104

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
 Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Scorpio Bay
35yr German & Irish average guy versatile HIV+ 5'11" 195lbs br eyes & hair. Smooth body, enjoys walks on beach working out at home. Movies, kissing, cuddling, cooking ns, nd, itd. **71105**

Single In The City Sucks
But not as good as I do! Horny top 30-50 beaded by 49yr bottom eager to leave single hood, neat, honest, loving/cabin looking to enjoy together. **71106**

Goodlooking Latin 28
I'm 5'6", 165lbs, stocky, muscular, dark features. I'm seeking Latins or Whites under 40 for friendship or for building a LTR. N/S only. **71108**

Masculine Top Seek Son
GWM, 250's, 5'7", ns, HIV-. Seeks masculine submissive boyson who is educated, affectionate, funny and stable. **71109**

Looking For Romance
GWM, 43, 5'9" 120", 160lbs, genuinely nice, passionately sexual, healthy pos. Mostly btm. ISO similar masc. men who are emotional, available, down to earth and top to versatile. **71137**

Young Only
Seeking young 18-25 hot blooded males for good safe sex and possible friendship. HIV- clean hygiene, non-smoker, drug user, and drinker. All races with nice round butts. **71138**

Title Body Builders
Seeking non-attitude muscle bound males for safe sex and possible friendship. HIV- clean hygiene, large swollen nipples nice round butt, good teeth, Black, Latin and Asian. **71139**

Want A Man In Your Life?
Or how about two??? Two friends: GWM, 53, 5'8", 185, HIV-, and GAM, 56, 5'8", 135, HIV-, each seek a separate relationship with the same hairy, hunky lover man. **71140**

ISO My Latin Santa
Who's honest, tender & romantic, HIV-, 36-46; Let's enjoy the magic of Christmas together. Me: GWM, 41, 5'9", 175lbs. brn/blu. For a fun date pls. call. **71141**

Offering Love Affection & "Down-Home" Cooking! Handsome, funny, passionate, "Southern" WM, 32, 6'1", 185lbs. h/wt proportionate. Seeks Asian-top-male, h/wt proportionate, nice looks, facial hair A+. **71142**

GWM Seeks Man Of Color
5'10", 45, 160, blond, bottom/versatile, HIV+. Looking for gentle guy. Build a life together! Like arts, music, outdoors, cooking, skiing? sailing? I have spirit and soul. Let's talk. **71143**

On Crutches
GWM 5'10", 195lb, 47yo (use crutches) ISO young guy for romance & possible LTR. **71144**

ISO Adventurous Outdoors Guy
WM, attrac, 5'7", 150#, 48, neg. likes: hiking, camping, rodeos, motorcycles, adventure, passion and big hearts. **71179**

Seeking Hispanic/Blond Blue 18-21yrs.
Prefer significant other/friends HIV-. No overweights/fems. I'm Hispanic, blk. hr. brn. eyes. olive complexion, 24yrs. 157lbs. HIV- considered good looking comments made. **71180**

Good Catch!
GWM, 41, 6'3", 220# financially secure HIV-, recently out of LTR. Seeks 35-45y.o., HIV- dark, hairy, top. Like movies, entering & good times, no drugs, alcohol ok. **71181**

If You're Gonna Suck Cock...
Then be so good at it your guys don't even fantasize fucking you/ always cum back for more, is my motto! What's yours? **71182**

Penis Bondage-Erotic Chastity
Tight confinement, many days without cumming, prolonged sensual arousal. Seeking partner for deep intense involvement, delicate beginning, gradual development. WM 53, 5'8", 170#, solid workout body, bald short hair/beard. **71183**

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Fisting Bottom Wanted
Love to suck my dick too and the love is yours guy. Also into w/s, bondage, etc. Have playroom. **71080**

Seeking One W/A Big Butt Part 2
Look past the wheel chair and we will have a great fuck session! 9 long inches. It stays hard 4 a big ass! Freak **71081**

Muscular For Chub
Looking for dick hungry, big bellied guys to service my fat cock and huge nuts, daytime. **71082**

Headhunter For Chocolate Dream
Seeking beefy, Black/Brown men. Masculine, discrete, clean, attractive, mature man will service you head to toe. Relax and enjoy. **71083**

Young Seeks Older 55-69 Topman
Life before 55 is just a rehearsal says ex tv commercial model 29, 6', 160#, new in US, with satin smooth silky skin and bubble buns, seeks naughty looking men. **71084**

AI Oral Service- Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocity. HIV- **71085**

Fuck Buddies Wanted
Handsome Irish guy needs some good buddies to orally service him. 5'11", brigr/175#, nice uncult 7 1/2. Castro loc. Let's do it! Call. **71086**

Give Me A Good Ride
Well built top versy, hung big is looking for well built men (20-30's), hairy to sit on my face and cock for a good ride. **71087**

Bottom Asian
33, 5'8", 160#, bottom Asian, horny seeks GWM 30-44 to rim my ass, to fuck me hard & deep throat me. **71110**

Let Me Service Your Cock
GWM, 5'11", 175#, HIV-n/s, n/d like ser ice your 7" cock and get fucked and watch video's, any age. No factor or race please call. **71111**

Most Ads Exclude Me
Since I'm near 50 and balding, but as enjoy shooting my love gun as much as any kid does. Sincere, masculine, easy to reach men only, please. No in-direct #'s. **71112**

Fuck Buddy Search
BTM looking for goodlooking GWM top who likes to fuck. UB: Tall with nice cut tool. Condoms only, eyes or winks. I am 5'8", s/p, great smile & eyes. N/d, n/s, aroma ok. **71113**

Over The Knee Spanking
Light, sensual, erotic to heavier with hand, belt, paddle. Novices welcome. Me: attrac, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250#, husky build. You: attrac, GM, (White, Asian, Hispanic), slim, nice buns. Limits respected. **71114**

Rubber
GWM 5'6" 140#, 60 ISO others who like drruylts, rubber, latex or leather for play and friendship. Bound to have fun. LTR desired. **71115**

Santa Rosa Head
WM, 44, heavyset, offers great head to clean WM's- no recip. **71148**

Rough & Ready
White guys wanted by Oriental slut. You: 35 & under, blue collar type w/8" plus, for front/rear pussy-banging. Me: 35, 165, 5'9" gdlg. **71116**

Uncut Hung 9 Hairy Masc Musc.
GWM 50, 5'9"-160, balding, versatile top seek fit man with great butt, legs, nipple work, light S & M, rough & tender, kiss & cuddle. From east coast-visit SF in Jan. HIV+ ok. I am 15yrs. **71117**

Bad Attitude -- Good Fuck
Hot, masculine, muscular, big-dick Italian top is looking for a hot, masculine, in-shape eager-to-please bottom under 45, any race. **71118**

Seeking A Neanderthal
GWM, 37, 5'11", 175, br/br, muscular, handsome seeks an extremely hairy in-shape man 30-50, thick, thick hair all over your body, so I can rub my smooth, muscular body against it. Clean and healthy please. **71119**

Spank Me.. Cute Little Frat Boy
22 needs over the knee discipline from dominant big brother 18-35. Chinatown. **71120**

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; You: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. **71121**

Straight WM 55 Seeks Asian
Masculine divorced bi-curious seeking-hot cream-filled link sausage. Force feed me and shoot your load on my face. **71122**

Muscular WM Seeks Asian For
Rope-bondage, submissive and masochism. I'm 32yo, blonde, deeply masochistic, broad minded and turned-on by Chinese men. Your inexperience is okay. **71123**

Missed Your Ad #9920
I am WM, mature, uncult-hung, would like to visit you on Douglass at 21. Pls. call **71145**

Work Yer Dick Hard
....And slow, in my mouth. GWM 48, 5'9", slim, smooth, short beard, seeks face fuckers to service. Trim, hung studs to head of line. Repeats A+. **71146**

Tall Seeks Short
GWM 55, 6'4" top wants short GWM 5'6"-5'8" 40+ bottom for fun and hot times. HIV- aroma, smoke ok. **71147**

Older GWM ISO Older BM
(Over 40) who likes any of the following; to be rimmed, dildos, nips worked, FF, or kinky sleaze action! SF for E.Bay **71149**

Hot Shaved Pighole To Fuck
GWM 5'6" 135lbs tache/tats, pierced, 9"uncut hot shaved hole for bb sex, men 40+, W/S, rim, cigars, just hot nasty sex. **71150**

Lean And Hairy
Smooth trim submissive WM 42 who is masculine, seeks trim dominant 20's to early 40's with facial or chest hair, who have oral needs. **71151**

Hot Mouth For Hot Cock
GWM 40's, Oakland seeks WM, 35-50yrs. 6'+ and thick. Love to suck and have you cum on my face. Will lick you all over! **71152**

Single Asian Male ISO Safe Clean
Fun. 36, 5'10", clean cut professional, slender build. Not into scene or stereotypes. Enjoy long foreplay, kissing, j/o, oral, massage, showers, lots of body contact, STD free important. **71153**

Gay Latino
Oral bottom seeks cute Latino, Asian, White oral tops. **71163**

Sonoma County Dad
Hairy-looking, bearded, healthy, generous fun. Eager to give great head and rimming to slender son, 18-30. No reciprocation needed. Available weekdays. **71154**

Sex Buddy Wanted
Me: GBM 6'2", 177lbs. hung, good looking seeks well hung, lean men for hot sessions. Very short hair or shaved A+ but not necessary. **71155**

Hot, Tall WM Seeks Hung Fuckbud
Masc, 6'3", 175, buzz cut, blue eyes, 30s, looking for: In-shape, discreet, hung WM, under 35, top or versatile men preferred. **71156**

Looking For Substance
51, GWM, 5'7", br/br, 135lbs, in-shape, mostly bottom, nice guy, HIV+. Wants to meet top/vers with lots of goals who is fun to be with. **71157**

Kick Back And Enjoy
Free erotic massage and/or oral service by muscular, handsome, long-haired guy. Good looking, trim or in-shape must, longhair or alternative types A+. I'm a nice guy, UB2. **71158**

Hot White Or Lat'n Bottoms 19-30
Wanted by 55yr old white top. 55yr old 6'0", 160lbs, big 9" dick loves to fuck hot young White or Latino bottoms. Leave hot message. **71159**

Big Bottom Bear Type
GWM, 41, 5'10", 240#, goodlooking, goatie, big butt, not buff, available for dominate tops. Older men of color a plus. Looks, sex unimportant. Sex only. Partnered but need more. **71160**

Sex Buddy Wanted
Gay masculine guy, seeks another 20-50 for regular fun sessions, let's keep each other satisfied and safe! **71161**

Well-Hung Butch Bottom
GWM 49, 5'8", 140#, s/p hair, 8"cut w/big head. Vers. Very oral-looking for well-hung top for fun & possible relationship. **71162**

Sonoma County Sex Slave Wanted
GWM 6'1" 170# masculine, versatile, non-smoker, seeking sex slave 25-45, who likes to play hard. **71164**

Daytime Muscle Cocksucker
Horny? Off from work? Need to blow a load? Masculine, buffed GWM, 35, seeks to service nasty, aggressive, dominant, well endowed men. Daddies, business men, uncult, A+++ **71165**

Financial District?
Hectic day at the office? Congenial senior guy, beard, moustache, slim daddy type, will come down, provide relief, blow horny junior execs after work. Utmost discretion guaranteed. **71166**

Wildman Seeks Co-Conspirators
My big cock needs frequent, lengthy, deep polishing. If you're big & hairy even better, but attitude more important than appearance. Mature is pretty essential though. **71184**

2 Black Men Wanted 8" Or More
Well endowed Black men to fulfill my fantasy. Would be White fuck toy for both. Me: 5'8", 155#. 24hr sexual slave. **71185**

Naked Muscle
Cock stroking exhibitionist seeks other naked guys for j/o excitement. Wild fantasy! Stripped down and exposed. Horny hard tools naked and shooting cum. Let's showoff together. **71186**

Older GWM ISO BM
Over 40 who likes nipple work or rimming or dildos or PF or even more nasty fun. SF or EB. **71192**

Are You Shaved Smooth?!!
Hairless/shaved admirer looking for hot smooth men. Seeking shaved muscles and hairless cocks. Any pubic hair left? Let me lick & touch while you show off your smooth assets. **71187**

Hugs And Kisses
My arms hold what the world lacks. I'm a top- like oral give/take, deep kissing. Me: attrac GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs, husky build. You: attrac GM (White, Asian, Latin), 21-35, slim. **71188**

Sexy GAM Seeks WM For Pumping
GAM, 30, clean cut, smooth, boyish, odikg seeks WM for doggy-style fun. Blond's a plus. Couples welcome. **71189**

Masochist Seeks Asian
Muscular, 5'10", handsome, hot, 32yo.o. blonde seeks experienced Chinese top/sadist for rope bondage, safe play and long-term friendship. I'm broad-minded, friendly, sincere and fun. You must be serious. **71190**

I'm Glad I'm A Born Cocksucker
So I don't have to learn all those complicated variations & nuances that delight your tool, uncult a plus, or be born again! **71191**

Do You Miss The Black House?
I'm hosting an intimate 12/31 Black-House-style gathering in Oakland for participants over 40. Hotel, chip in and direct contact (no beeper, voice-mail, work phone) # required. **71193**

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Proud, GBF, 51, ISO that "Special Woman!" Friendship first, communication and trust a MUST. Those with too many material hang-ups, need not reply. Can we talk? **71175**

FETISHES

Cock Sucking Bottom ISO Tops
I'm into bondage, threesome, pics., videos. I love 7-8-9" or more in face. Tie me up. Fuck me and pass me around! zip 94501. **71088**

Parched In Sonoma County
Watering hole available for assertive mature man with attitude. Verbal a plus. Me, 42-5'9"-170#, dehydrated. **71089**

Big Man Needs Sex Slave
Slave needed to service me as I see fit. I'm 6', 295lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, 42yrs, HIV+, White guy. My tool is 6.5- Limits respected. **71090**

Leather Dad ISO Boy
Dom WM top, 57, 6', 255, musc, beefy, sane, creative, sadistic, loving ISO fit masc boy for bdsm play & poss. LTR. pref under 45, kinky, neg, ns. **71091**

Big Hungry Nipples
Let a hot man work your meaty nipples with my hands, mouth, tongue, or teeth. I'm a pig for huge tits and chests. Let's get into hot tit fantasies. **71093**

Family Fun
Looking for videos for real life father/son or brother/brother. Legal age only! Or better yet, to meet in person to watch or join. **71094**

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! **71167**

On My Knees
Oral passive wants "DAD" to spread his legs, relax, enjoy someone service his crotch. Exhibitionist, verbal. Tall makes it easier to kiss your ass. **71174**

Your Feet In My Face
GBM, 40's seek WM, 35-45, with large feet, long toes to service. Have hot mouth for clean feet. Lay back - I lick- No reciprocation. **71124**

Bootlicking Fetish
Older, generous guy seeks studs to age 40 who will allow him to lick and polish boots. Especially excited by military, police and cowboy attire. **71125**

Daytime-Asshole Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! **71126**

Santa Bar Leaving A Switch
Commemorate an old holiday tradition. Have you been naughty or nice? Is it better to give than receive? **71127**

Bondage Partner Or More....
SGWM, 43, 5'7", 170, attractive, healthy, fit. Into leather, boots, rope, strait jackets, cuffs, hoods and gags-seeks similar for hot bondage play or more. Relationship-oriented. **71128**

Quench My Thirst
Looking for guys who want to piss in good for guys old, 5'10", 170lbs, in good shape, thirsty. **71168**

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Looking For Serious Nipple Workout
45yr old nipple pig, brn/bm, salt & pepper goatie, tats & piercings. Seeking serious nipple buddy for kick ass tit play with growth in mind...pumping weights, clamps. Call **71170**

Man W/Toe Ring Sks Foot Partner
Lifelong excitement looking at/fantasticizing about men's barefeet. Masculine, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'9", 140#, tan, moderately hairy, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet, safe j/o. LET'S GO BAREFOOT! **71171**

Cock Bondage- Erotic Chastity
Penis confinement, many days without cumming, prolonged sensual arousal. Mutual, friendly, substance-free. Yoga WM, 53, 5'8", 175#, solid, workout, bald, short hair/beard. No action first meeting. **71092**

Bondage Top
Experienced bondage top, GWM, good looking, 41, 5'8", 155#, in-shape, seeks submissive, muscular, in-shape guy, 21-45, for erotic bondage and play. Bi, straight, ok. Limits respected. Safe, discreet, trustworthy. SF East Bay. **71172**

Huge Nipples On Big Chest
Looking for men who crave nipple work. If you have big tits, hungry for action, let's talk. You're in for a treat. **71173**

COUPLES

Secure Couple Wanted
Stable, secure wanted for 3 way. Ub 30's safe, discreet. I'm 38, slender, top. Brn, gm, crewcut, goatie. Hot, safe fun wanted to spice up life. Regular basis possible. No drugs. **71095**

OTHER

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I need a ski buddy to share a luxury suite at Whistler (near Vancouver) during Gay Ski Week (2/5/00-2/13/00). Surprisingly affordable! **71129**

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Sweet and...

◀ page 37

dim but endearing mute laundress, played by British actress Samantha Morton. She weathers his disregard, verbal abuse, and steadfast refusal to commit. She's more than the sweet of *Sweet and Lowdown*, she's the cream in Ray's coffee, but he's too myopic and distracted to notice.

Speechless

The other lead actors fare less well than Penn. Uma Thurman plays Blanche, Penn's would-be novelist wife. She's got the sassy, brassy élan of Marion Davies or Jean Harlow, but her breathless and strained delivery gives pause. Is this her character's eccentricities or Thurman's limited acting moxie on display? As for Morton, the small avalanche of praise that has accompanied her performance is not surprising. Hollywood has long had a perverse reverence for speechless performances, and has rewarded Oscars to Jane Wyman, Patty Duke, John Mills, Marlee Matlin and Holly Hunter for keeping quiet. On the streets, we sneer and call it mime, and before 1927 everybody in movies was silent. It's not so tough to act without a voice. Morton is compelling because she comes with a ready-made gimmick. She is forever stuffing down sandwiches and flashing those expressive doe eyes. One can't help feeling manipulated. Her muteness, childlike innocence, sexless costumes, and low-riding hat spell *Lovable Waif!* in blinking neon lights.

Sweet and Lowdown is more successful for its off-camera con-

tributions. Allen has surrounded himself with the best. His stalwart production designer Santo Loquasto managed quaint indoor and outdoor New York locations and dressed them to period perfection. His new director of photography, Zhao Fei, has never before made a movie outside China, and worked here with Allen with the aid of interpreters. The results are enchanting. And there is the expected wash of great jazz, with a soundtrack featuring "When Day Is Done," "Clarinet Marmalade," "Sweet Georgia Brown,"

"All of Me," and "It Don't Mean a Thing," performed by the likes of Bunny Berigan and His Orchestra, Howard Alden, Carol Woods, and, yes, Django Reinhardt.

So do thumbs point north or south for *Sweet and Lowdown*? How about east and west? Allen's love of jazz is a delight to witness, but there are strange undercurrents at work. Ray's idea of a good time is shooting rats at the dump, and Allen can't seem to get enough of that thin comedy line. Maybe this is a tribute to John Waters, who has a tiny role

as Ray's long-suffering agent. Ray's funk at Reinhardt's greatness is another ongoing joke that runs dry fairly quickly. And the entire relationship between Ray and Haffie, the very guts of the movie, is lifted right out of Fellini's *La Strada*. Brutish loud mistreats innocent, loyal mute girl-woman, then suffers epic pangs of regret when he realizes too late that she was the sweetest angel on earth.

It all makes for an uneasy product, blessed with Allen's genius for existentialism, but cursed

with a creeping sense of routine. Perhaps Allen has been around so long that he's grown self-referential. There isn't a single shot, line of dialogue, note of music, or character eccentricity that hasn't been echoed in one or another of his movies. *Sweet and Lowdown* is agreeable all the way, but it may be awfully hard for anyone to get terribly excited. ▼

***Sweet and Lowdown* is playing at the Embarcadero in SF and theatres around the Bay Area.**

Woody Allen

◀ page 37

Actually, it was not until Benny Goodman came along that they really started to integrate very much. There's a lot of criticism about Benny Goodman, but on that score, he was very good. So it's whatever the story dictates at the time."

Authors do not receive the same criticism Allen receives for not including gays and blacks in their books. Is it because cinema is considered a more democratic art, an art of all the people?

"I think people need to write things, and the writing's more interesting when there's something to bang into, or something controversial that they can make into some kind of conflict. It's the same thing a dramatist has. A journalist wants conflict every bit as much as a dramatist, because it's more interesting to read.

"So when you're coming up as a performer... For instance, when I was unknown as a performer, the interesting conflict was, 'Hey,

you got to see this guy. You know, he doesn't dress well. He's nervous. You gotta see him.' Then when you make it, the interesting thing is, 'I don't think he's so great.' That's what happens.

"I think journalists write a lot about cinema, and it makes their story more interesting if they can find, you know, that you're over-budget, or you are behind, or there was a fight on the set between the star and you. Or you say something deprecating about gay people, or you know... Whatever they can drum up, they drum up. It goes in one ear of the public and out the other. Very, very often, it's not even true. Sometimes it's true. Sometimes it's true but meaningless, and I find those kinds of things meaningless.

"I mean, I never took it seriously when someone said to me, 'You should write more stories about blacks.' I didn't know how to do that. All I can write about is my family. I grew up in Brooklyn. I know what people there sound like. I know exactly what their nuances are, and that's what I write about. So I've never felt that way

about any other particular group: women, blacks, gays. It's never been a factor in my consciousness. It's a criticism I don't regard as valid criticism, and I don't deal with it."

And that's that. But how can you get angry with the man responsible for the following ex-

change from *Mighty Aphrodite* (1995)? Mira Sorvino: "You got no confidence. I like that in a man. I can't stand those johns who come in here, throw down a couple a hundred, whip out a big dick and wave it all over the joint."

Woody: "I couldn't do that even if I wanted to." ▼

All About My...

◀ page 34

below, as if the notebook were transparent. And an unforgettable scene is the death of Esteban on a rain-soaked Madrid street, seen from his own viewpoint on the ground. The production is rounded out by an appropriately brooding jazz soundtrack by Alberto Iglesias.

Tragic as the story is, the screenplay is paced so well that there are only rare moments for the viewer to take the time to cry. Without descending into the pathos that served Krzysztof Kieslowski so well in *Bleu*, a film with a similar theme of maternal loss,

All About My Mother allows us to empathize, and move on. As the wild world of Almodóvar whirls around her, the vulnerable yet strong, damaged yet dignified Manuela stands like a sentinel, with a wise, yet slightly goofy, smile on her face, somewhere between the Mona Lisa and Samantha Stevens. Almodóvar's opus is dedicated to "all actresses who have played actresses, to all women who act, to men who act and become women, to all the people who want to be mothers. To my mother." ▼

***All About My Mother* is playing at the Clay Theatre in SF and theatres around the Bay Area.**

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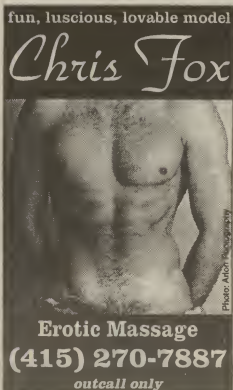


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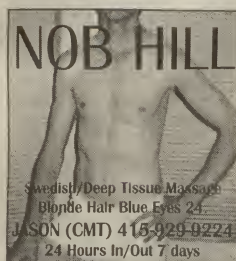
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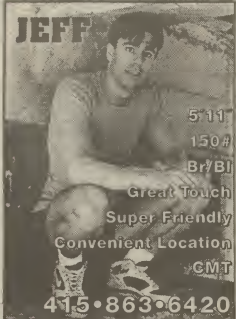


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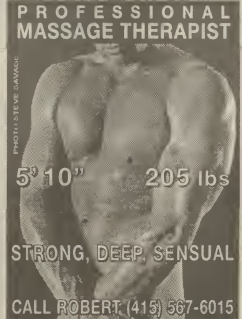
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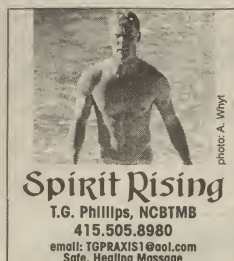
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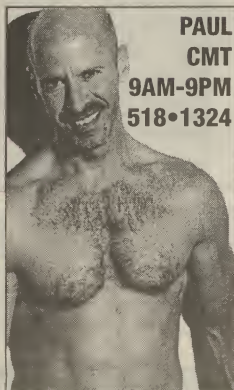


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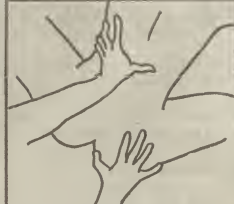
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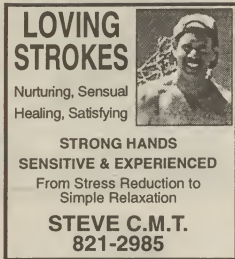


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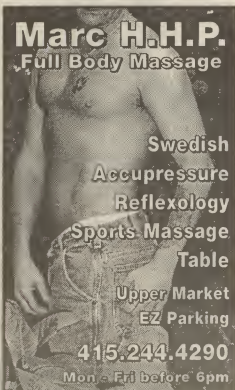
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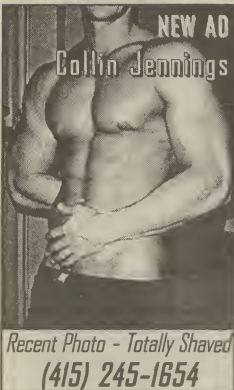


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br/br handsome gd body who loves being on top! open wide!!!
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29yo skinny hairy hung*blueyes
Nosing*mohawk*likes fun times
No drugs please! Dillon 235-4269
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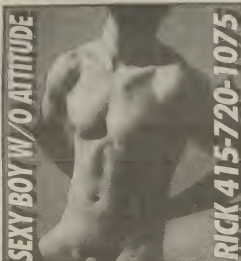
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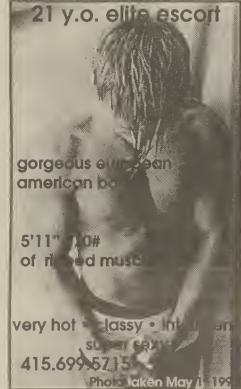
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5'10", 160 very fit & toned, tan body!
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Friendly- wellhung&exprd 790-4081 E51

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Long eyelashes, defined, lean, toned
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Dominant Leatherman
Bondage,
SM, WS,
CBT,
F/F,
Fetish,
Slave
Training



43yo,
6'1", 195#,
Brown Hair,
flat top,
Blue Eyes,
mustache,
7" Uncut.

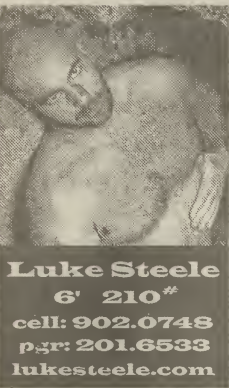
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Have equipment and playspace.
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Wes *415-270-5239 E51

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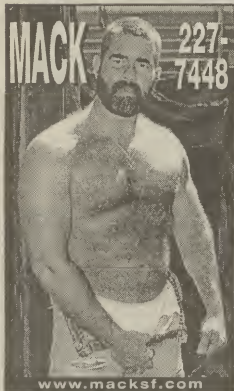
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OUT ONLY VM 820 1632 E51

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Deep & hard!!
27yrs. 5'7", 150#
ANTHONY 415 208-5380 E51

GBM 6' 165# hung
Quality, quantity, model/escort
Don't settle for anyone less!

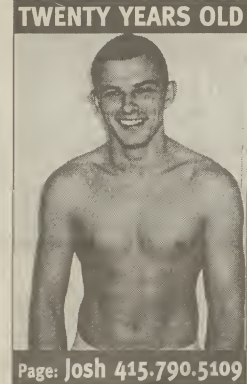
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Sexy, slender Latin jock smooth,
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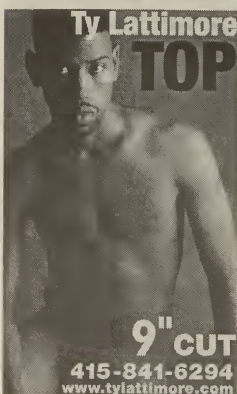
18YO-B0YTOY
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-Thanks for all the gifts

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The 6', 180# blond outback adonis!
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masc athlct handsome lt.brn/blue
29yrs, 5'11", 170lbs, 8x5cut in/out
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(yngr bro can be 2nd. 24yrs 9x6 cute)

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into jock straps-show your hard

in the pouch-adjust the straps on

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with out of town guys in town

for the holidays. See ya at the

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And keep up the good work!

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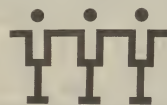
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